

'The next few days - some would say the next 48 hours - are likely to prove whether Lebanon is to survive as a state'

Beirut battle rages as Lebanon drifts to civil war

Only hours after his army thrust into the heart of West Beirut and pushed back Muslim militias who had seized large parts of the city...

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Moscow (AP) - The Soviet Union yesterday condemned what it called "gross United States intervention" in Lebanon and called for the withdrawal of American troops from Beirut...

In shop doorways and side streets, teenage gunmen, some armed only with small siver-plated pistols, fired back in desultory fashion...



Sihia fighters armed with rocket-propelled grenades advance toward a Lebanese Army position yesterday

Solidarity protesters clash with police

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The acrid whiff of tear gas again perfumed the streets of Poland yesterday as Solidarity supporters in many towns and cities demonstrated for their banned union...

Officers freed then seized in Harare

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

Joy among High Court spectators at the acquittal of six Zimbabwe Air Force officers on sabotage charges turned to fury and bitterness yesterday when they were immediately rearrested...

British Gas to shed thousands of jobs

By Jonathan Davis, Financial Correspondent

The State-owned British Gas corporation is planning to shed between 10,000 and 20,000 of its 101,000 employees by the end of the 1980s to try to improve efficiency...

West Beirut again came under a fierce and indiscriminate artillery bombardment during the evening as Lebanese troops desperately tried to continue a three-pronged attack across the west of the city...

As the Lebanese Cabinet sat in conclave throughout the day, shells exploding around their yellow stone palace, Mr Robert McNamee, President Reagan's Middle East envoy, arrived back in the city...

Beirut state radio blamed the Syrians for the bombardment of the city. There is not a shadow of doubt that the shells that landed across Christian East Beirut and on the coastal road north to Jounieh were fired by Syrian or Druze gunners in the Meto mountains to the north-east of the city...

Indeed, for much of the day, it was possible to hear the artillery that fired the shells, the guns booming three or four seconds before the shells landed, evidently fired by Christian Phalangist militias or the Lebanese Army itself...

Just before dark, Lebanese troops fought their way as far as the Commodore Hotel, the centre of the international press corps in Lebanon. Soldiers ran up laneways beside the building firing bursts of sub-machine gun fire at snipers still holding out on nearby rooftops...

In a high-speed car drive across the ruined port and past the Lebanese Army's front line just before nightfall, I saw every evidence that the Lebanese Army was failing to make good at least one of its attacks. Lebanese soldiers, their battle dress streaked with grime, their foreheads swathed in bandages and their shoulders draped with ammunition pouches were lying in gutters and perched on rooftops as they tried to dislodge dozens of Shia Muslim gunmen in the Wadi Abu Jamil district...

From the safety of Damascus, Mr Jumblatt, the Druze leader, issued a series of almost hysterical diatribes against Mr Gemayel, referring to him as a 'butcher' and insisting that the Lebanese Army's attack into West Beirut constituted 'a new carnage, similar to the Sabra and Chatila (Palestinian) massacre'.

Since Mr Jumblatt's own militia, along with the Syrians, were contributing mightily to the bloodshed, this statement was, to say the least - something more than dishonest.

Also in the Syrian capital, the regional office of the 'Amal' Shia militia condemned what it called 'the massacre of Muslims in Beirut', although Mr Saeb Salam, Continued on back page, col 3

FT chief decides to step down

By Derek Pain

The chief executive of the Financial Times, Mr Alan Hare, is to step down on October 1. But he will remain chairman of the newspaper until next spring, when he will reach retirement age of 65.

Mr Hare's decision to step down comes less than a month after the ending of a damaging ten-week stoppage at the Financial Times. It cost the newspaper more than £1m in lost revenue after taking into account costs saved, such as unpaid wages.

Mr Hare said he had decided to end his commitment in two stages to make the change over as smooth as possible. Last night's announcement, he said, would have the strike not taken place.

Mr Hare will not be severing completely his connections with the Pearson group. He was appointed president of Chateau Latour, the French vineyard controlled by the group, in June. His other appointments include directorships of the Reuters newsmagazine and of the Economist.

Other Financial Times appointments from October 1 are: Mr Richard McClean, managing director (marketing), to be deputy chief executive, and Mr David Palmer, deputy editor, to be general manager. Mr Richard Lambert, the newspaper's chief news writer, will become deputy editor.

Israel in chaos over Begin succession

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Israel was plunged into political chaos yesterday as the Likud party sought to find an agreed successor to Mr Menachem Begin, the retiring Likud Prime Minister, failed and the Labour opposition launched a series of unofficial contacts in the hope of being asked to form the next government.

Managers of the Likud coalition parties acknowledged that they were involved in a race against time to find a new leader before Mr Begin submits his letter of resignation (which is already written) to President Herzog, who then has to call on one Knesset member to try to form a new administration.

Only if the Likud has a new leader supported by a viable majority can Labour, the largest single party in the 120-seat Parliament, be prevented from trying to form its own left-wing coalition.

It is believed that Mr Begin will resign formally by the Jewish New Year next Wednesday at the latest.

Within a few hours of Mr Begin making his decision to step down, a fierce political struggle erupted between the two main contestants for his job as leader of the Herut Party, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Foreign Minister who started favourite, and Mr David Levy, the Sephardic Deputy Prime Minister. The leader of Herut automatically heads the Likud.

Yesterday afternoon, it was announced that at a private meeting whose chairman was Yaacov Meridor, Mr Begin's closest confidant and his predecessor as commander of the Irgun Jewish terror group, that the two contestants were both insistent on submitting their candidacies to a meeting tonight of the 900-strong central committee of the party. Its decision is expected to be final.

Although Mr Shamir, aged 67, a former Knesset Speaker and one of the Cabinet's leading hawks who opposed the Camp David treaty has emerged as the clear favourite among seven of the eight Herut ministers in the present government, this does not ensure his success. Mr Levy had all along been pressing for a showdown in the central committee where he is said to have gathered grassroots support.

The fact that the two contestants were unable to reach a private deal before the crucial meeting has encouraged those in the Labour Party who believe they may have an outside chance of tempting away sufficient coalition deputies to be able to command the necessary 61 seats in the Knesset.

At present they have 50 and yesterday began putting feelers to the small parties.

As expected Ariel Sharon, the former Defence Minister and the chief architect of the Lebanon war has quickly emerged as an influential power behind the scenes.

Gunmen hijack Romanian cargo ship

Nicosia (AP) - Unknown gunmen commandeered a Romanian cargo ship in the northern Lebanese port city of Tripoli. Port authorities in Cyprus said they did not have the name of the ship, and that there was no information as to where it was heading.

Bravery award for Navy diver

A Royal Navy deep-sea diver has been awarded the Queen's gallantry medal for his part in 'possibly the most dangerous task ever undertaken by a Royal Navy diving team'.

World 'must find oil alternative'

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Falling oil reserves and a decline in the discovery of new oilfields should lead to planning for alternative energy sources, the World Petroleum Congress was told in London yesterday. Present estimates show that the world's oil could run out in 66 years.

World oil reserves now stand at 103 billion tonnes with the prospect of exploration bringing total reserves to 192 billion tonnes, according to Mr Charles D Master of the US Geological Survey. Annual oil production is running at 2.9 million tonnes.

Mr Masters said: 'There is an immense quantity of conventional crude oil in the world. Our capacity for consumption, however, is perfectly capable of challenging that immensity. Though there is much yet to be discovered and produced, there is no room for complacency.'

An American team of 18 geologists estimates that of the 99 billion tonnes still to be discovered, 2.1 billion tonnes will be found in the North Sea.

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The operation was conducted from a chartered vessel, the 7,000 ton Stea Seaspeed. It involved using a diving bell to carry the divers down.

Advertisement for VICTORIA WINE featuring a bottle of Rioja wine. Text includes 'Wine of the month', 'GRANTS OF ST JAMES'S', 'Rioja', 'The Rioja region of Spain offers some of the finest value red wines available today...', and '2.59 PER BOTTLE'.

Mr Hare planned earlier announcement

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Handwritten signatures and notes at the bottom of the page, including 'The Times' and '50934'.



Commentary
The beginning of September customarily marks the resumption of active politics after the summer break.

Separate blast linked to Middle East conflict
Police theory of grudge bombings at Oppenheimer properties

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter
Scotland Yard anti-terrorist experts suspect that South African politics or a grudge are the motives behind bombings in London.

Empty wards fear over job targets

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent
New hospitals and redevelopment of existing ones may have to remain empty unless health ministers agree to revise their manpower targets.

Blacking threat to Vauxhall

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent
Vauxhall car workers yesterday stepped up their threat to "black" the company's car imports in a bid to win an improvement on a 5 per cent pay offer.



Aftermath: Woodstock Street in central London yesterday as police investigated the explosion outside an Israeli bank. (Photograph: John Voos).

Heffer backs move to break up union block votes

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent
Mr Eric Heffer, the Labour leadership candidate who has won the backing of the party's hard left, yesterday supported a change to the law which would break up the power of trade union block votes in future leadership contests.

Rate curbs sought in Scotland

From Our Correspondent Glasgow
The Secretary of State for Scotland Mr George Younger, is seeking new powers that will grant him even greater control over local authority spending.

Telecom in cable TV consortia

British Telecom has disclosed that it has agreed to participate in nine consortia which have applied to the Home Office for cable television franchises.

Churchill role for Thatcher

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, looking fit after her holiday but still showing signs of her eye operation, yesterday claimed in Scotland that her government was following the policies of Sir Winston Churchill and she hoped one day that she would be compared with him.

Plutonium dumping plans 'leaked'

By David Nicholson-Lord
Government departments have discussed plans to dump highly radioactive plutonium waste from the nuclear weapons research centre at Aldermaston, Berkshire, into the sea, it was claimed yesterday.

Sinclair renews car option

Sir Clive Sinclair, the electronics inventor, has extended his option to buy the former De Lorean car factory in Northern Ireland. Sir Clive is interested in buying the main part of the De Lorean plant in Belfast to assemble the electric car he is developing.

Illegal auction dealers fined

A trail of estate cars loaded with valuable loot in a police expert in antiques, by chance, to an illegal auction on an isolated beach where dealers were selling valuable antiques bought cheaply earlier that day at a country house sale.

Murder charge

A youth aged 16 appeared before a juvenile court at Rawtenstall, Lancashire, yesterday, accused of the murder of Mrs Ivy Bottoms, aged 67, of Haslingden. He was remanded in custody for eight days.

Drugs remand

Three men, charged with illegally importing drugs, were remanded in custody until Tuesday by Newquay magistrates yesterday.

Foam fights fire

Firemen yesterday used 70,000 gallons of foam in an attempt to smother the Amoco oil refinery blaze at Milford Haven in West Wales.

Money box theft

Thieves hitched a tractor unit to a British Rail container packed with £40,000 of coins and drove it out of the Freightliner depot to Southampton yesterday.

Grandmaster trio in chess lead

By Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent
A spate of early draws in round eight of the Lloyds Bank masters tournament in London yesterday meant that players were feeling the strain of playing continuously without a rest day.

Drink laws 'should cover glue-sniffing'

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent
The offence of being drunk in a public place should be extended to cover intoxication from other substances, including solvents, the Magistrates' Association says in its annual report.

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Advertisement for AUTHORS WANTED BY N.Y. PUBLISHER. Looking for quality book publishers seeking manuscripts of all types including fiction, poetry, juvenile, scholarly and religious works etc. etc. New York, N.Y. 10001.

Handwritten text in Arabic script: مکتبہ من راولپنڈی

Cost-cutting by Thomson signals price war with package holiday operators

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Sharpening next summer of the package holidays price war signalled yesterday by Thomson Holidays, Britain's biggest foreign tours operator. Thomson is only increasing the number of holidays on offer by a quarter but clipping many prices below this summer's levels.

"Summer sun" holidays, the biggest part of its programme, will be on in price by an average of 2 per cent while the growing number of sailing holidays will have prices down by an average of 6 per cent.

One of the other incentives now common in the travel trade, such as no-charge guarantees, Thomson will also absorb airport taxes, usually £10 a holiday. Other operators are expected to follow suit.

The result for holidaymakers is that on a £250 holiday savings will range between £5 and £15, although some savings will be greater.

But the increasing price competition could result in some tour operators going out of business. Mr John MacNeill, managing director of Thomson Holidays, agreed with other forecasters who have suggested that smaller tour operators will come under increasing pressure. But highly specialized operators should be at much less risk, he added.

The Thomson prices will be a special challenge to the Birmingham-based Horizon Travel, the third largest tour operator. Horizon, which like Thomson has aimed more for the quality market, has been losing market share this summer because it did not follow Thomson in bringing out a lower-priced, mid-season brochure, although it did so for this winter and now looks likely to produce a lower-priced brochure for next summer.

By suggesting the printing of its holiday brochures through the winter Thomson is retaining the option to bring in new brochures half way through the booking season with even lower prices.

"We are committed to the best possible holidays at the keenest prices. If we have to react to the competition then we have the facility to do this", Mr MacNeill said.

Thomson traditionally is first with the next season's brochures and its nearest rival, Intasun Leisure, together with operators like Cosmos, has come in later with lower prices. For this past summer Thomson reprinted its brochures, largely matching opposition prices, and as a result swelled its market share from 18 per cent in 1982 to 21 per cent this year. It has the same with this winter's main holiday programme.

Thomson expected to have carried 790,000 holidaymakers, a 12 per cent increase on last year. Despite the poor start to this summer's booking season, the 1983 market is expected to finish as much as 5 per cent up. Mr Roger Heape, Thomson's marketing director, said.

But the company is aiming to carry more than one million passengers next summer because it expects between 15 and 20 per cent more holidaymakers to take a foreign holiday.

This growth is expected partly to arise from consumers having more money to spend as pay runs ahead of inflation but also because of an expected continuance of the trend against taking holidays in Britain.

Last year 21 million holidaymakers took breaks of four nights or more in Britain and 11.75 million went abroad. But with holidays in Britain showing an 18 per cent decline and overseas holidays an 80 per cent rise, by 1987, as many Britons could be holidaying abroad as taking a break in Britain, Mr Heape said.

Thomson claims that typical foreign holidays are now undercutting United Kingdom packages, including rail travel. A Cost Brava 14-day holiday would be £176 against £180 in Blackpool, and a £206 Majorca fortnight compared with £212 in Torquay, Thomson claimed.



Fin de siècle: Mr Russell Doig displaying his historic catch. Photograph: Bill Warhurst.

Thames salmon catch of the century

Mr Russell Doig, an angler who hooked the first authenticated salmon taken from the Thames for 150 years, was yesterday presented with a trophy and a cheque for £250 for his achievement.

The last salmon caught by rod and line upstream of London was in 1833, but the river became so polluted that little survived in it.

During the past 20 years, a series of anti-pollution measures has led to 104 species of fish being identified in the river and in 1979

the Thames Water Authority began re-introducing salmon.

The chief executive of the authority, Mr Hugh Fish said yesterday: "The catching of a salmon by rod and line proves beyond all doubt that the Thames is now clean."

Mr Doig, aged 46, a motor mechanic of Stanwell, Middlesex caught the 6lb 12oz salmon at Chertsey weir pool on August 23 using a Mepps Number One spinner.

His catch is to be mounted and will be put on display by the authority.

Goldcrest aims to raise £20m

By David Hewson

Goldcrest, the film and television company that made the Oscar-winning Gandhi, is planning to raise £20m from institutional investors later this year. The money will be used to finance further expansion to the company's interests in production, distribution and pay television. One future option being considered by the company is that of going public.

Mr James Lee, Goldcrest's chairman, said yesterday that he thought it would be attractive to have a publicly quoted company in Britain which was solely involved in film and television production.

Mr Lee, who is also deputy chairman and chief executive of Goldcrest's parent company, Pearson Longman, has persuaded a number of institutional investors to finance the company. Sales by European manufacturers such as Renault and Fiat have also decreased. The only importing company which appears to have held its own is Volkswagen/Audi, which took 5 per cent of the market.

Cult defended by 'rebel' teacher

From Ronald Faux, Liverpool

The newly appointed mathematics master at Croxteth School, the former comprehensive and now rebel independent school in Liverpool, yesterday defended his membership of Ananda Marga, the Indian cult which he has been accused of performing ritual murders.

Mr Philip Carspecken, aged 31, a United States social science graduate, admitted his membership but said: "We do not practice ritual murder, neither are there homosexuals at all. We are primarily a social service organization that practices yoga."

He said he had been a member of the movement in the US for 10 years and in Britain for two years. They believed in implementing socialist policies in a peaceful way and the allegations that had been made in India were "very distorted".

The school management was aware that he was a member of the cult, he said, and that he had been found guilty of using insulting behaviour during a visit to Liverpool by the Queen 18 months ago.

Mr Carspecken joined the teaching staff at Croxteth as a volunteer about a year ago after parents had taken over the school to run it themselves with financial help from the trade union movement.

The left controlled Liverpool City Council has agreed to take the school back into the city's secondary system next year as an independent.

Mr Philip Knibb, chairman of the parents' action committee, said Mr Carspecken's private views were a matter for himself.

Mr Michael Storey, Liberal spokesman on education on the city council, said that a full inquiry should be held.

The Department of Education and Science last night confirmed that Mr Carspecken was not registered as a teacher in Britain.

"He would need to be registered to teach in a maintained school in Britain but not in an independent school".

Pontin plans comeback at 77

By Derek Pain

At an age when most people settle for comfortable retirement, Sir Fred Pontin, the former holiday camp tycoon, is preparing for a stock market comeback and, as a sideline, developing a West Country hotel chain.

At the Grosvenor Hotel in London yesterday, he presided at a shareholders meeting of Knick Holdings, a fashion group that fell on hard times and now, as a leisure business, is the vehicle for Sir Fred's stock market return.

After the meeting he travelled to Brighthelm, Devon, to complete his latest house purchase.

Sir Fred, who will be 77 next month, at least for the time being, keeping his two business careers apart.

At the Grosvenor Hotel, which is to be renamed the National Leisure Group, has more than 600 shareholders. Just six of them turned up yesterday to vote through the latest acquisition, the takeover of Scarborough Zoo and Marineland, an amusement centre at the Yorkshire resort.

Since Sir Fred joined forces earlier this year with Mr Donald Robinson, aged 46, Knick has made a series of acquisitions.



Sir Fred: Concentrating on upmarket leisure

He hoped the company would obtain a full stock market share quote before the end of the year.

Sir Fred created the Pontin's holiday camp group which is now owned by the Base Group company. He left the company shortly after he sold out in 1978.

However, Sir Fred, an ebullient character retaining much of his holiday camp image, has no intention of getting involved in his old business in his career comeback.

"They are too down-market these days."

Knick will concentrate on other leisure areas, its present activities include theatres, public houses and a theatre.

Mr Robinson, who rescued Hull City football club from bankruptcy, is impressed by the potential of theme parks. Knick is at present negotiating for a site to build a compact, undercover park in central London.

The Robinson family, Sir Fred, and Trident TV are the main Knick shareholders. Sir Fred's share stake, based on the 20p price the shares have commanded in unofficial dealings, is valued at about £600,000.

Wandering trolleys impounded

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities is writing to its 76 members to England today for their views on the growing urban problem of abandoned supermarket trolleys (Arthur Osmau writes).

The London Borough of Sutton had sought the association's advice. An association official said: "After we receive our members' views we shall decide what to do."

About ten authorities have already decided on punitive measures. Solihull in the West Midlands became the latest yesterday by deciding to make stores pay a £4 fee to recover trolleys from a special pound.

Stores and supermarkets in the town will have one month to reclaim trolleys worth between £30 and £40 each cleared from streets, car parks and other sites. If they are not reclaimed the council will dispose of them.

Mr Keith Samuels, chairman of the town's public works committee, said: "We hoped this will clear up the problem, which has been with us for some time."

Supermarkets may start charging a deposit to make sure they are brought back.

Mr Richard Taylor, consumer affairs director for Tesco, said about ten councils were now operating the same sort of scheme involving what he called "ransoms" for the return of trolleys.

He continued: "It is something to which we object, as a trade. There have been discussions between Solihull and the British Retailers' Association in an attempt to come to an amicable agreement. We actively challenge a local authority's right to do this, although we appreciate they have powers under the Highway Act to remove anything which constitutes a public danger."

"Our point is that these trolleys are not abandoned, and that they are going to be recovered." Some supermarkets had up to six people permanently employed collecting trolleys abandoned by customers and in Tesco's larger stores there were specially-designed low-loader collection vehicles.

Mr Taylor said: "We spend a lot of time, effort and money recovering trolleys and we get more than a little upset when local authority reacts in this fashion."

He said the retailers association has contemplated challenging an authority in the London area, but the matter was dropped when the authority returned the trolleys it was holding. He said: "It would be a last resort to take a local authority to court."

Retailers were now experimenting with a number of deposit schemes.

Move to British cars seen in rising sales

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

Record sales of new cars in August showed a significant swing away from imports and in favour of British-based manufacturers. The Japanese fared particularly badly in a month in which they normally do well.

August is the best month of the year for the importers, with private buyers dominating the market to their rush to obtain the new registration letter. Fleet and company buyers, who tend to favour BL, Ford and Vauxhall, usually stay away.

This August, however, tempted by the incentive and discount campaigns waged by those three companies, private buyers have been tempted away from imported cars.

With four days' registrations

still to be processed, last August's record of 302,000 cars sold has already been exceeded by 35,000.

Last night, dealers reported that demand had remained surprisingly high and the final sales figure for the month could reach 360,000.

Japanese companies' share of the market has fallen from 12.5 per cent last August to 10.4 per cent, the first time in many years they have not exceeded their "voluntary annual ceiling" of 11 per cent in their favourite month.

Sales by European manufacturers such as Renault and Fiat have also decreased. The only importing company which appears to have held its own is Volkswagen/Audi, which took 5 per cent of the market.

Future Forecasts
YOUR COMPUTERISED HOROSCOPE
IN 5 MINUTES

Believers in the influence of the planets buying six-month horoscope charts at the computerized astrology shop in Selfridges. The computer can produce a chart in five minutes. Photograph: Suresh Karadia.

Planetary influences at Selfridges

By Bill Johnston, Electronics Correspondent

What is claimed to be the first computerized astrology shop in Britain has opened at Selfridges in London where believers are buying six-month prediction charts for less than £10.

The charts are based on the contents of five United States publications, Planets in Composite, Planets in Transit, Planets in Youth, Planets in Aspects and Planets in Love, written by three astrologers in the United States.

The subject's name, birthplace, date and time is fed into the computer and in five minutes a chart is produced.

The venture is the idea of Mr Douglas Villiers who has

ambitions to open similar shops in New York, Los Angeles, Atlanta and Chicago also in other locations in Britain.

He has based the venture on one shop he had seen in Paris which uses programs written by the American company, Para Research on an IBM computer.

The chart or report provided by the shop in Selfridges, known as Future Forecasts provides 15 pages of detail outlining the position of the planets at the time and place of the subject's birth. This is followed by another 15 pages giving a six-month prediction chart on a month by month basis.

Mr Villiers said that programs

were originally written for professional astrologers but have been adapted. "I wanted to popularise it and make it available to the public."

A more detailed report of some 50 pages is available for about £13.

Future Forecasts claims that no two charts are the same as that each requires about six billion computations.

Future Forecasts expects to attract a lot of tourist trade and intends to try and establish itself at Heathrow airport, London. Mr Villiers said: "We are looking for pleasure-seekers. People going on a day out or waiting at an airport in the right relaxed 'mood'."

Bath dome project changed

By Craig Seton

A public inquiry over part of the plan to restore Bath as a spa has been averted after a decision by architects to bow to pressure from groups concerned with the city's architectural heritage.

A number of organizations, including the Georgian Group and the Bath Preservation Trust, took exception to part of the scheme to refurbish the Old Royal Bath, the open-air Cross Bath and the Beau Street Bath. City councillors were also divided.

The outcry was over a proposal to roof over the Cross Bath with a dome, rising six feet above the parapet.

The Georgian Group described the scheme as "pervasive and eccentric" and accused Mr William Bertram, and the Royal Fine Arts Commission, which supported the scheme, "of conniving at the disruption of an important and delightful piece of Georgian landscape". It called for a public inquiry.

Mr Bertram said yesterday that he had now submitted a new plan. The dome would remain over the pool, but its height had been reduced and it would no longer rise above the parapet.

The new plan will go before the council's planning committee later this month and the Georgian Group has indicated that it will withdraw its objection.

The multi-million pound project will be carried out by Mowlem Property Developments, Blakeney Hotels and Ernest Ireland Construction.

High savings bring hope of shorter home loan queues

By Lorna Bourke

Queues for home loans are likely to shorten as building societies continue to take in more money.

Receipts for August are likely to be nearly £500m - a drop of more than £200m on the previous month, but still significantly higher than August 1982, when net receipts reached only £437m. August is traditionally not a good month to pull in savings, and the societies are pleased to have beaten their 1982 August figure.

Today sees the launch of the big five societies' new term share offer paying 9 per cent net of basic rate tax. The societies expect this new issue to attract an extra £1,000m, which should go a long way towards reducing mortgage queues.

Smaller societies are offering even better terms, with the Hazel Hempstead and Greenwich societies paying 9.25 per cent net of basic rate tax. Several societies are compounding interest half-yearly instead of annually, giving a higher return.

Societies need to raise at least

£700m a month to meet existing mortgage demand and the shortfall in August will probably be met by borrowing on the money markets. In July the societies raised £200m from non-traditional sources.

"This source is likely to continue to make a significant contribution to the funds available for mortgage lending, and may become more important in October, when societies are able to pay interest without deduction of tax on time deposits", Mr Richard Weir, secretary general of the Building Societies Association, commented.

The launch of term shares by the societies is good news for investors, but bad news for borrowers. To finance the higher return on term shares, the Halifax and Leeds Permanent building societies are reintroducing differential mortgages, the system of charging more for larger than average loans.

Nationwide is considering the situation and only Woolwich remains firm that it will not bring back home loan differentials.

Back guard saved Rippon

Miss Angela Rippon, the former television presenter and newswriter, said yesterday that safety equipment saved her from breaking her back in a fall from a horse last weekend.

Nursing two broken wrists and how she was catapulted on to rock-hard ground when her bay thoroughbred, Katie, failed to jump a fence during a competition at Lifton, West Devon.

"I was thrown out of the saddle like a torpedo", she said.

"I landed on the other side of the fence, hands and feet first. The ground was like concrete and that's when I broke my left wrist."

"Then the horse somersaulted over and landed on the small of my back. The pain absolutely shot through my back as she landed on me. As she rolled off that's when I broke my wrist and dislocated my arm."

"I thought 'dear God, I have broken my back' and then I thought 'I have broken the horse's leg'."

"But then Katie was standing over me and I knew she was all right. She had picked the only soft place in the field to land."

Miss Rippon, aged 38, said she always wore a back protector which stretched from her neck to the base of her spine and covered both hips.

Miss Anna Ford, dismissed as a TV-am presenter earlier this year, is set to make a television comeback as a professional mother in a programme for Thames Television which will be a guide for parents about preschool children.



Miss Rippon: "Thrown like a torpedo"

Fields to be searched in wife hunt

A new search is to be mounted in the hunt for Mrs Diane Jones, the missing wife of an Essex village doctor. Scores of searchers, mounted police and tracker dogs will comb a square mile round her home at Coggeshall.

The operation, due to begin today with a search of a small wood, is expected to last up to three days. Dr Robert Jones's farmhouse home, which is up for sale, will also be searched again for clues. Senior Essex police officers gave consent yesterday for the new search, which will push the cost of the hunt so far to more than £500,000.

Police were still trying yesterday to find a woman who telephoned on Tuesday to say she had seen Mrs Jones, aged 35, in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

Home computer firms cut prices

Two United States micro computer manufacturers have announced big reductions for the British market. Texas Instruments, whose home computer business is running into deficit, is cutting the retail price of its TI99-4A micro from £150 to £100; it was introduced two years ago at £300. Software prices are also being cut.

Commodore, which is still very profitable, is cutting the price of most of its business computers. A typical system will cost £1,985 rather than £2,750.

Donkey work

Mr Len Downton, who operated donkey rides on the beach at Weymouth, Dorset, left £165,000 in his will, published yesterday. He died last April, aged 72, still running the donkey pitch started by his grandfather in 1888. His son John now runs the business.

Other wills, page 12

Theft charges

Six men from the Liverpool area were yesterday charged with offences in connection with the theft of more than £12,000 worth of property recovered by police after the Reading Rock Festival held in Berkshire during the weekend.

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Handwritten text in Arabic script: "صحة من الاجل"

Postal delays persist despite rise in complaints

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

More people complained to the Post Office Users National Council about the service they received from the Post Office last year than in any of the two previous years and yet the corporation still has a poor record of service.

The disclosures are contained in the council's annual report, published yesterday. In the last financial year, ending in March, the council says it continued to press the Post Office about the poor quality of service which remained disappointing despite management's attempts to get improvements.

The council handled 11,000 complaints from customers of the post and telephone services. Postal complaints totalled 3,744, an increase on 3,115 (1982) and 3,184 (1981). The bulk of the complaints to the council were about delays, which totalled 849, a rise of about 28 per cent.

The report says: "Complaints about delays recorded a particularly sharp upturn in June and September, reflecting in turn the rail strikes and the TUC Day of Action, and again in January, 1983, when the extended new year holiday caused a collection and sorting build-up which adversely affected delivery efficiency for several days after."

Reports of impending closures of post offices has led to a large

Man found dead after gun siege

A four-hour armed siege ended yesterday when a man was found to have killed himself after shooting and critically wounding his daughter aged 15.

The shooting came after a domestic dispute that broke out in the early hours of the morning at the family's maisonette in Priors Croft, just off the High Street in Old Woking, Surrey.

Mrs Shirley Frost, aged 48, ran for help to a neighbour with blood streaming from her head after being struck by a soda siphon. Mr Ronald Frost, then her daughter Carla, aged nine, ran out saying that her father had a gun.

Neighbours found Mrs Frost's daughter Carol lying shot on the kitchen floor. Mrs Frost and the two girls were rushed by ambulance to hospital as police cordoned off the area warning neighbours to remain indoors.

As a siege began Carol was transferred to the Atkinson Morley Hospital, Wimbledon, where she underwent an emergency operation for gunshot wounds. A hospital spokesman said her condition was critical.

At the council estate where the family lived 12 marksmen from the Surrey police firearms support unit took up strategic positions as senior officers tried to make contact with Mr Frost, using a loud hailer.

But there was no response and after a bang that could have been a shot, the police moved into the house and found Mr Frost, who held a firearms licence, lying dead in the bedroom with a gun by his side.



Mixed effects: The Burrator reservoir, serving the Plymouth area, which is down to 30 days' supply of water and (right) a dwarf rose thrown up by the "greenhouse" atmosphere being inspected by Mr Raymond Roads, a gardener from Wimborne, Dorset.

Downpour after drought meeting

By Craig Seton

Heavy rain fell over Plymouth yesterday as the Southwest Water Authority decided to seek government approval to halve the use of water in a wide range of activities in the city and across much of Devon because of the drought.

The authority is to ask Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, for permission to ban the watering of parks recreation grounds, sports and playing fields, race and golf courses, and for the replenishment of private swimming pools and ponds, if that should become necessary.

The ban would also apply to car washing equipment, the cleaning of public buildings and the use of water in ornamental fountains and cascades. If the ban is applied it would affect hundreds of thousands of people in Plymouth and north, mid and west Devon.

The Burrator reservoir on Dartmoor, which supplies Plymouth, is down to 43 per cent of capacity and has only 30 days supply left. The level has not fallen so low since the drought of 1976 when standpipes had to be erected in parts of the West Country.

After deciding on an emergency measures, members of the authority left the meeting to be greeted by a heavy downpour. With depressions forming over the Atlantic more rain was forecast.

Forecast, Jack Page

Give cyclists better deal, engineers say

By David Nicholson-Lord

Britain's highway engineers, traditionally regarded as protagonists of the motor-car and the enemies of pedal-power, yesterday called for widespread improvements in road design and traffic management to benefit cyclists.

In a 60-page report, *Providing for the Cyclist*, the Institution of Highway Engineers and the Institution of Mechanical Engineers advocated more and better cycle routes, greater mixing of cyclists and pedestrians on footpaths and crossings, and more experiments with converting disused railways lines for cyclists and allowing them to ride the "wrong way" up one-way streets.

The future of cycling, according to the institution, lies largely on the existing road network, not segregated tracks. The width, quality and maintenance of roads should be improved and better parking provided. Cyclists' safety, it adds, "should not depend of cycling in the gutter".

The institution, which represents 8,700 engineers employed by councils, central government and consultants, yesterday described its guidelines as an "important step forward" in the recognition of cyclists. It says that its recommendations can be achieved at "modest cost" and that they will reduce accidents, and encourage new cyclists on to city streets.

Mr Kenneth Huddart, the chief

traffic engineer with the Greater London Council and chairman of the group that produced the report, said the majority of local authorities had done "nothing special" for cyclists. Experience showed that the number of cyclists more than doubled when facilities were improved.

Mr Michael Hardy, the president of the institution and county surveyor for Hertfordshire, added: "We are trying to twist the arms of elected members, engineers, local authorities and central government to widen the use of facilities for cyclists."

Cost-benefit analysis by the GLC has indicated that a £12,000 investment in a mile of cycle-route would offer value for money if it was used by 100 bicycles a day.

The report says cycling saves energy, is healthy and pollution-free and is a viable alternative for trips to work. But casualty rates remain "obstinately high", with 90 per cent of accidents occurring in urban areas. Cycle traffic has doubled in recent years and further increases without better roads design could significantly increase accident rates.

The report was welcomed yesterday by cycling bodies including the Cyclists' Touring Club, the largest cycling body in the country with 35,000 members, and the London Cycling Campaign.

Getting through your first few days at college may require a little application.

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Stationery. £15.50

Council overspending: 3

Capital cohesion that cuts could corrode

By David Walker

Approached either from the south across the Tyne gorge or from the north by the town moor, Newcastle-upon-Tyne shows little of the decay and squalor visible in the inner areas of Manchester or Liverpool. When those two cities were convulsed in the summer of 1981, the Tyne was quiet.

The two facts are connected, city officials say. Newcastle's appearance and social cohesion are the products of a generation of relatively high municipal spending. "We have done so much over the past 20 years that our housing stock looks reasonable", Mr Jeremy Beecham, the council leader, said.

Realistically, he said, there would not be "blood on the streets" if the city council in Newcastle cut back its spending to the levels desired by the Government. But there would, over time, be profound damage to the Tyne's ability to cope, for example with their historically high levels of unemployment. There would at the least be a "tremendous upsurge in vandalism among unemployed youngsters at present provided for by various city programmes", Mr Beecham said.

Newcastle is an unabashed high spender with one of the highest rate poundages in the country. This year it is spending 30 per cent more than the Government says it needs; over 4 per cent above its control target. The northern region of the Confederation of British Industry, based in the city, raises a continuous outcry about the impact of rates on business.

The city's case, which is to be presented to the Government over coming months, is that Whitehall formulae have consistently failed to take into account that Newcastle is more than just another urban district. It is a regional capital, with all the associated costs.

Officials in the palatial town hall, built in the era of Mr T. Dan Smith, a once-celebrated Newcastle councillor run through the

list. The city has the only haemophilia unit in the north of England and requires social services backup. The city houses a regional reference library, paid for out of the rates. People from Scotland and the North arrive at the central station and need housing. Newcastle spends on regional theatres and tourism.

None of these costs are recognized in the Government's "grant-related expenditure assessment" and Newcastle is penalized.

Beyond that, Newcastle, Labour-held since local government reorganization, is unquestionably a generous provider. It spends more per pupil than most other metropolitan districts; similarly in social services, it is at or near the top of the leagues for employing social workers and providing home helps. Its extensive housing schemes include the famous Byker project, a huge wall of flats where there is a waiting list to get in.

Mr Beecham is a barrister, who unlike his municipal colleagues to the south, keeps up a full time job; he is a well-known moderate, outspoken within the Association of Metropolitan Authorities against more left-wing socialists.

But the amount that Newcastle's high level of provision is justified by the social circumstances of Tyneside with its 18 per cent unemployment and precarious reliance on declining industries. "It is not the business of the Government to say what individual councils ought to spend", he said.

If Newcastle had to reduce its spending, and the gap between its current outlays and the Government's target is only about £6m out of a £125m budget, council house rents would have to increase and council employees would go, mainly in education. Mr Cyril Davies, the chief executive said that the fine looks of Newcastle would also suffer. "It would be a much shabbier city if we just stood back."

Concluded

هكذا من لاصح

More than a million Filipinos mourn at Aquino's funeral

Manila (Reuters) - More than a million Filipinos turned out yesterday for the funeral of Benigno Aquino, the assassinated opposition leader, in a display of grief which developed into a peaceful demonstration of opposition to President Ferdinand Marcos.

The garlanded coffin, borne on a 10-wheel vehicle, inched along a 15-mile route from the Aquino family parish church in north Manila to a cemetery south of the capital.

The crowds surged alongside, between, before and behind the cavalcade of mourners in a procession that stretched for about two miles and brought much of the central area to a standstill.

The journey took nearly 12 hours and a police officer said one million was a conservative estimate for the mourners.

Some of the mourners carried placards reading "No reconciliation under the Marcos regime", "Marcos is a great liar" and "A bullet will never subdue the principles Ninoy (Aquino) upheld". Others said "Ninoy you are not alone" and "Marcos you are alone".

Police kept a deliberately low profile, as though riot squads were on standby in case of trouble. By nightfall, with the cortege still moving at little more than a walking pace, no serious incidents had been reported.

At exactly 7pm people threw their car horns, and banged tin cans, pots and pans and rubbish

bin lids in many parts of the city in a "noise barrage" protest against Aquino's murder.

The former senator was shot 10 days ago as he stepped off the aircraft that brought him back to the Philippines after three years of self-imposed exile in the United States.

Police yesterday identified the alleged killer as Orlando Galman, aged 33. They described him as a notorious killer and hired gunman with underworld connections and perhaps links to subversive elements.

But Mr Cesar Virata, the Prime Minister, said "Government elements" could also have been involved in the killing.

Mr Enrique Fernando, the chief justice, named to head an official inquiry into the murder, said Mr Galman's family had been taken into protective custody.

The mourners at the funeral included students, office workers, labourers, civil servants and Filipinos from outside Manila, many singing hymns and patriotic songs.

Yellow-bunting decked trees and lamp-posts, spectators showed the procession with confetti, torn from the yellow pages of telephone directories. Many people wore yellow clothing or carried yellow umbrellas.

For Filipinos and followers of Aquino, yellow recalls the song "The Yellow Ribbon" about a prisoner returning home from jail.

Aquino had spent seven years in military jail and was under

sentence of death for murder, subversion and illegal possession of arms when President Marcos let him go to the United States for heart surgery in 1980.

At least six assassinations, two acting chiefs of mission, many senior diplomats and a capacity congregation of at least 10,000 attended the funeral service at the Santo Domingo church near Aquino's family home.

But there were apparently no representatives from the Marcos Government or from Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia or Indonesia, which, with the Philippines, make up the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

Cardinal Jaime Sin, leader of the country's 42 million Roman Catholics, led the funeral service, pleading for peace.

"With his death, let us not bind ourselves to the fact that he came back not for confrontation but for reconciliation", he said.

"There is an atmosphere of repression and a climate of fear... his death personified Filipino courage in the face of oppression".

Outside the church Mr Diosdado Macapagal, who preceded Mr Marcos as President until 1964, said: "I have never in my life seen anything like this. Marcos should realize that it is time for him to go but of course he will not."

Mr Ramon Magsaysay, the son of another former President, said: "I think it is about time the Government listened to the people who are voting with their feet at this funeral."



Final farewell: Thousands escorting the coffin of Benigno Aquino through central Manila yesterday. The funeral march took 12 hours.

Nigeria chief denies raising private army

Lagos (Reuters) - The Governor of Nigeria's western Ogun state has denied charges by the ruling National Party of Nigeria (NPN) that his government had recruited a private army to foment trouble during the country's series of five elections.

Chief Bisi Onabanjo, of the opposition Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN), who was returned for a second four-year term as governor in an election on August 13, said on television on Tuesday that his state had no private army, but a security unit set up in 1981.

The NPN secretary-general, Mr Uba Ahmed, said on Saturday that the recruitment and training of the "men of destruction" was part of a masterplan by the UPN to resort to violence in the event of losing this year's elections.

Chief Onabanjo said the existence of the security unit was known to President Shagari Shagari, the national police chief and the head of the national security organization.

The unit became necessary because the national police command in Ogun was found to be reluctant to provide or found to be capable of providing adequate protection to government functionaries, properties and institutions on a number of occasions," he said.

Ogun is the home state of the UPN leader, Chief Obaifemi Awolowo, who lost to Mr Shagari in the presidential poll on August

6. The UPN reaffirmed its control of Ogun and Lagos states in four of the five elections already concluded.

Violence erupted in the other two UPN-controlled western states of Oyo and Ondo during governors' elections.

Police said 33 people were killed in the Oyo violence, but the state's NPN leader told reporters in the state capital of Ibadan on Tuesday that more than 100 people had died.

Elections to the Senate, the House of Representatives and state assemblies have been postponed indefinitely in the two states.

In the latest results of Saturday's House of Representatives election, President Shagari's NPN appeared set to win overwhelming control of the 450-member lower house.

With 277 returns in from the 17 states where voting took place, the NPN had taken 186 seats, 18 more than its total share in the lower house after army-supervised elections in 1979.

The UPN was trailing with 31 seats. Balloting has still to take place in the two western states where the UPN won most constituencies in 1979.

In the elections already completed this month, President Shagari won a second four-year term, while the NPN took 13 state governorships and 55 of the 85 Senate seats contested.

Carter gives backing to Mondale

From Nicholas Ashford Washington

Mr Walter Mondale has received the endorsement of Mr Jimmy Carter, the former President whose deputy he was, in his attempt to win the Democratic Party's nomination for the presidential elections next year.

Mr Mondale, the front-runner among six Democratic hopefuls but has been losing ground in recent months to Senator John Glenn. The Mondale camp hope Mr Carter's support will improve their candidate's standing in the south where he is now trailing behind Senator Glenn.

Although Mr Mondale was delighted with the fulsome praise which Mr Carter showered upon him, his endorsement by the former President could prove a mixed blessing.

It is widely believed that Mr Mondale's association with the unpopular Carter Administration is a major weakness in his candidacy.

Yesterday Mr Carter graciously assisted his former vice-president by saying: "It would be a mistake for him politically or otherwise to be closely associated with me or too much dependent on the policies I espoused as President."

He added that Mr Mondale offered a good balance of progressive views on social and domestic issues and conservatism on fiscal policies.

US 'feared De Lorean success'

From Ivor Davis Los Angeles

American Embassy officials in London feared that if Mr John De Lorean was successful in making sports cars in Belfast it would be a severe blow to the American car market, according to secret cables made public here yesterday.

The cables were filed in Los Angeles: Federal Court as part of Mr De Lorean's efforts to show that Washington pressured the British Government to destroy his sports car operations. They were made public under the Freedom of Information Act and showed that in 1978 the American Embassy in Britain worried that Mr De Lorean's car company would give him an unfair advantage over American car manufacturers.

They said: "It is the embassy's initial view that the United Kingdom government payments also would directly benefit De Lorean car exports, permitting lower prices, and give them an unfair Government-financed advantage over competitors in the US market. It was suggested that the American Government should privately protest about the loans to the British Government although there was no indication this was ever done."

Mr De Lorean, who is due to stand trial on cocaine smuggling charges, was being kept under close scrutiny by the State Department, according to the cables.

Ulf and his one-armed bandit fight the law

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm

A special committee of the Swedish Parliament will be convened this month to discuss the remarkable case of 14-year-old Ulf Linde who wants permission to install a "one-armed bandit" in his bedroom.

Ulf bought the machine from abroad in January this year. It is damaged, unable to take coins or pay out jackpots. Ulf wanted it "for decoration". He said: "I've always wanted one - I don't know why."

However, one-armed bandits are banned under Sweden's strict anti-gambling laws, so to be on the safe side Ulf telephoned the police in his home town of Umea to ask their advice. The police referred him to the county council for the province of Vasterbotten.

The county council passed the matter over to another body, the Lottery Authority, which issues licences for the limited forms of gambling that still exist in Sweden.

The authority's chairman, Mr Johan Palm, was outraged. "It would be the same as applying for leave to operate a still in order to manufacture alcohol at home", he said. Permission was duly refused.

Ulf doggedly took the matter to government level. He appealed to the Ministry of Education, claiming the machine to be a success piece.

A senior civil servant, Mrs Angela Gardner, has now been ordered to draw up a preliminary report on the matter for submission to a government committee which will decide the bandit's fate later this month.

The affair has taken nine months to get this far. "I'm still hopeful," said Ulf.

Jesuits begin search for a new leader

From Peter Nichols, Rome

About 220 Jesuits from all over the world formally begin the task today of seeking a new general to lead the Roman Catholic Church's most formidable religious order.

Their next head, who succeeds the ailing Father Pedro Arrupe, will face the delicate task of reestablishing an acceptable working relationship with the Pope. Father Arrupe did not have such a relationship and also is now partially incapacitated as the consequence of a stroke. His resignation, the first in the order's history by a general, will take place on Saturday, when solemn homage will be paid to his work.

The general congregation to elect his successor is the thirty-third in the nearly 450 years of the Order's existence and the only one to take place at the time when the Jesuits are ruled by a delegate personally appointed by the Pope.

Father Paolo Dezza, the octogenarian chosen by the Pope to superintend the affairs of the 26,000 Jesuits, said yesterday that he thought the new General would emerge after about a fortnight. There are no official candidates and the successful candidate must obtain an absolute majority.

He himself foresaw a General who would bring "greater reflection and penetration". A more thoughtful generalship was the implication after the active and controversial leadership of the Spaniard Father Arrupe.

At the time of the appointment of Father Dezza in October 1981 the Pope also named Father Giuseppe Pittau as his deputy, Father Pittau, who is himself a candidate, says that they should look for a person who loves Jesuit traditions but would know how to act in a creative way to meet modern challenges.

The proverbial prudence of the Jesuits (recommended by St Ignatius himself, the first General, as a quality essential for a head of the order) reduces talk of candidates but half a dozen names are heard with some frequency. That of Father Pittau is usually the first, although his election could be taken as meaning too much readiness to make the Pope happy.

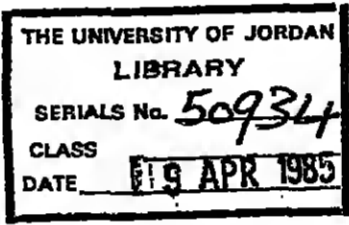
The same would be said of Father Dezza, who has the additional disadvantage of his venerable age. St Ignatius maintained that a general should be neither too young or too old. With becoming modesty, Father Dezza has pointed out that at the age of 82 he has little more to look forward to.

He himself gave a clue to another name, that of Father Roberto Tucci, Director-General of Vatican Radio and organizer of the Pope's journeys.

Leading article, page 11

In the first few days as a student, you'll find you cannot live by brains alone. You'll need money. And to turn your grant cheque into money you'll need a bank account. But if you wait until you get there before you open one, your spending power in those first critical days may be somewhat limited. It takes time to deal with applications, time to print your name on a cheque book, time to clear grant cheques. Fortunately, time is one thing you've got right now. Complete the coupon, send it back to us at least two weeks before your term begins (but

after you've heard you qualify for an LEA grant) and your cheque card, cheque book and Servicecard will be waiting when you arrive. You'll find us easily enough—we have more on-campus branches than any other bank. Our Current Account banking service is commission free, of course, while you remain a student, and for six months after, even if you're overdrawn. And for starters, we'll even put a fiver in your account. You should get through that without too much difficulty.



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Malaysia losing battle to curb powers of King and sultans

From M. G. G. Pillai, Kuala Lumpur

Signs are increasing that the Malaysian Government may have misjudged when it rushed through Parliament last month constitutional amendments which would effectively reduce the monarch's power to delay legislation and to declare an emergency.

The King must still sign the changes before they become law, and that is becoming unlikely because Malaysia's nine sultans and the King elect among themselves every five years all reject the amendments as unconstitutional and enjoy much more support than the Government on the issue.

Malaysia's rulers have more powers than is usual for constitutional monarchs. When republican sentiments surfaced briefly after the 1969 racial riots, Parliament and the state legislatures made it seditious and unconstitutional to reduce the ruler's entrenched powers without their consent. MPs also lost their immunity when speaking on such matters in the house.

So, when Parliament passed a Bill in August incorporating 22 constitutional amendments, two of which reduced the powers of the ruler, a confrontation was inevitable.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Prime Minister, controlled the debate by ordering his ruling coalition MPs and senators and the press not to highlight the debate on the ruler's powers and prerogatives.

Parade to mark independence

Malaysia yesterday celebrated the twenty-sixth anniversary of independence from British colonial rule, with an armed forces parade in Kuala Lumpur attended by several thousand people.

The King took the salute at the march past of the three branches of the defence forces and representatives of the multiracial population including civil servants and students.

Since the Bill also increased the number of parliamentary and state assembly seats and removed the Privy Council as the final court of appeal in civil cases, there was plenty to be debated. Some legal experts say the amendments are unconstitutional and seditious.

Under the amendments, a Bill would become law 15 days after it came before the King whether he assented or not, and he could no longer declare a state of emergency, power given to him only two years ago.

A principal objection among the politically dominant Malay community is that it is theoretically possible, oow, for Malaysia to become a republic within 15 days. The Malays see the rulers as their insurance against non-Malay dominance, while the non-Malays see them as a sobering influence against executive excesses of the

Malay-dominated federal and state governments.

The rulers, to a man, feel threatened by the substance of the amendments and would oppose them on procedural grounds. The Prime Minister did not discuss them, as the constitution required, with either the King or the rulers, a palace source said. The rulers are taking legal advice.

The King is unlikely to give his assent: there is talk he might be deposed if he did. The Government may wait until after April next year, when his term expires, and introduce the Bill again, thought probably in a different form.

The nine state governments - four others have federally-appointed governors - have been unable to call their state assemblies to pass similar laws because of opposition from the rulers. In one state, the sultan refused an audience to his Menteri Besar (Chief Minister) to discuss the amendments.

One reason for the amendments was the fear that the exuberant and independent-minded Sultans of Pahang and Johore, who under the rules stand the best chance to be the next two kings, could cause difficulties during their reigns.

But palace sources say the sultans would have suggested a way out of that without amending the constitution.

The rulers meet in special session next month to discuss the problem.



Courting arrest: Guizar Begum, a woman union leader, just before her arrest at a Karachi court. She was protesting with lawyers against martial law

Prison population doubles in Sind

The jail population in the Pakistan province of Sind has increased by about 3,500 since August 14 when the opposition launched its campaign against martial law.

According to a report in a Karachi newspaper, there are now 5,830 prisoners in 12 Sind jails compared with 2,500 on August 14. The jails still have room for another thousand prisoners but additional temporary cells and centres for special

detainees are reported to be overcrowded.

The Karachi administration is said to have been caught out by the disappearance from hospital of Mir Ghans Bux Bizenjo, the Baluchi leader of the Pakistan National Party, who had been receiving medical treatment while in detention. Mir Ghans Bux Bizenjo, who is not formally aligned with the eight party Movement for Restoration of Democracy which is responsible

for the present agitation, has however, urged his followers to join the struggle.

Meanwhile the Jamaate Islami leaders who met general Zia-ul-Haq, Pakistan's military ruler, on the eve of his present visit to Turkey, are considering street protests to counter the MRD campaign against martial law. The Jamaat generally backs President Zia's proposed reforms and goes along with its political programme.

Hongkong reserves claimed by China

Hongkong (AFP) - A senior Chinese official was quoted yesterday as saying that Britain must unconditionally return all Hongkong's reserves, about \$4bn (about £2.7bn) after China resumes sovereignty on July 1, 1997.

The official, of the New China news agency here, was quoted by the *Oriental Daily News* as saying that the reserves would then be used to stabilize the Hongkong dollar on the world money market.

But a Hongkong spokesman commented: "As has been stated by the Secretary for Monetary Affairs, Mr Douglas Hyde, on numerous occasions, Hongkong's reserves are controlled by the Hongkong Government, not the United Kingdom Government."

The Chinese official was also quoted as saying that the reserves belonged to the Hongkong people and China had already said at talks with Britain that the reserves must be returned to the Government of Hongkong formed after 1997.

The government spokesman, noting that talks on Hongkong's future are confidential, said that yesterday's report suggested the British government would not publicly state its position on the British Government.

According to the report, the official said that after China's resumption of sovereignty Hongkong people would be free to travel on Hongkong-issued Chinese passports, and that the legal system would remain unchanged with the Supreme Court to hear final appeals.

He also "guaranteed" that the Chinese Government would give the new Hongkong government all-out support in its foreign trade and economy.

Exodus feared: Doctors, architects and lawyers are expected to leave

Hongkong in mass exodus if the Sino-British talks do not give guarantees of personal freedom and independence (Richard Hughes writes).

The president of the Hongkong Medical Association, Dr Namis Yuen predicts that "at least 80 per cent of Hongkong's 5,000 doctors will leave if the talks end unfavourably."

He added: "Some doctors who are in the process of applying for resident status in Western countries have already sent their wives and children abroad while they maintain a wait-and-see attitude."

"Others are already getting their immigration papers to go overseas. Some have bought passports from the Dominican Republic." The president of the Hongkong Institute of Architects, Mr Edward Ho, said that many architects were already talking about leaving.

"If there is an exodus of architects, it will not come in 1996 but much sooner and probably even in the next few years. It is an urgent problem for architects and not just a matter of politics."

The former chairman of the Hongkong Bar Association, Mr Martin Lee, QC, has already sounded a warning that most lawyers can be expected to leave Hongkong before 1997 "if they get no guarantee from China of independence of the judiciary."

Another controversy - which ironically weakens Hongkong's legal claims - is listed high on the programme of the Commonwealth law conference which opens here next month: the transition of Hongkong laws into Cantonese.

One leading Hongkong barrister said: "How can we urge the Chinese to retain our existing laws who half of them are not even written in the Chinese language?"

Police clear estate of protesting workers

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

For the sixth time in as many days, the Guardia Civil bodily removed dozens of unemployed farm labourers from a large privately owned estate near Seville, as a union-backed campaign to improve the lot of Spain's landless farm workers gained momentum.

Other actions occurring just about every day in Western Andalusia include sit-ins by jobless workers on main roads, the occupation of churches and town halls and protest marches. A plan to block national highways and railways in the south was dropped after Señor Felipe Gonzalez, the Prime Minister, remarked publicly that such actions would be considered illegal.

Prime movers of the campaign are the Farm Workers' Union, a left-wing organization whose members damaged farm machinery when the Centre Party was in power but have shown more restraint under the Socialist Government. The farm federation of the Communist-led Workers' Commissions, Spain's biggest trade union, is also active. The Socialist-led General Labour Union has played a predictably minor role in the campaign to embarrass the Government into doing something about endemic unemployment in the area where Señor Gonzalez once practiced as a labour lawyer.

The immediate objective is to get more money out of a make-work programme funded by the Government to carry out small public works projects in poor villages. They want the rule that limits the number of members of a single family who collect such money to be waived, and they want to be allowed to work more days per month. Their long-term aim is to force the adoption of an agrarian reform programme.

In the meantime, the Farm Workers' Union insists that farm owners should be obliged to hire at least one worker for every 80 acres. The union also wants landowners to switch to more labour-intensive crops and do away with most machinery.

Next Monday leaders of the Workers' Commissions will head a march of jobless workers which is to set out from Badajoz, near Seville, and walk through much of Andalusia for the following 35 days. On September 10 the Farm Workers' Union will open its congress in Marinaleda, also near Seville, a town which made the headlines under the previous regime because of its repeated hunger strikes designed to emphasize poverty in the area.

Daughter locked up in love tangle

Palermo (AP) - Sicily's Anti-Mafia police, acting on a tip from a desperate lover, freed a 23-year-old woman who was locked up semi-nude by her parents for wishing to marry a divorced man.

Police in the town of Carini, nine miles east of here, found Signorina Eugenia Nobile in the home of a neighbour where she had been held for two days.

The woman, who had been stripped to her underclothes to prevent her escape, was put there by her parents because she refused to renounce her plans to marry Signor Salvatore Grigoli, a 29-year-old bricklayer in the process of divorce. "My parents consider it a dishonour to marry a divorced man," she told her rescuers.

Police arrested 44-year-old Signora Grazia Sanfilippo for holding the woman captive. "For doing a favour to my friends by taking in their dishonourable daughter I have been arrested. It doesn't make sense," Signora Sanfilippo said.

Police could not find Signorina Nobile's parents.

Jailed tax rebel could topple Danish Cabinet

From Christopher Follett, Copenhagen

Mr Morgens Gistrup, tax lawyer and leader of the anti-tax Progress Party, went to prison near Elsinore yesterday to serve a three-year sentence for gross tax fraud. The sentence poses a serious threat to the life of Denmark's eleven-month old Conservative-Liberal coalition.

Mr Gistrup, aged 57, was sentenced in the Supreme Court last June at the end of a nine-year legal fight. In addition to the prison sentence he was ordered to pay 6m kroner (£410,000) in fines, back taxes and legal costs. He was subsequently expelled from the Danish Parliament.

The American trained lawyer leaves behind him a wrangling, deeply split party, embittered by the sentence of its founder, which looks like bringing down the government at an extraordinary session of the Folketing (Parliament) to be held on September 9.

The four-party minority coalition of Mr Poul Schluter the Conservative Prime Minister, needs the support of the Progress Party to pass vital legislation. Mr Schluter has said his Government will resign and call elections in October, if the legislation, cutting grants to local authorities, is not passed next week.

The Progress Party, Denmark's sixth biggest party with 13 members in Parliament after three members resigned to support the Government.

With Mr Gistrup apparently determined to exact revenge on the Government and manipulate his fellow politicians from his prison cell, the divided residue of his party is threatening to defeat the Government unless it meets the Progress Party's demands for stable income tax reductions in the current series of negotiations.

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Counting the cost in Lebanon

Battles in Beirut force Reagan to review role of the Marines

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The fighting in and around Beirut is forcing the Reagan Administration to review the role and size of the US contingent in the multinational peace-keeping force.

Although President Reagan has told Congressional leaders that the 1,200 Marines have only been involved in "sporadic fighting" and their status therefore remains unchanged, it has become clear that if hostilities between Lebanese factions continue at their present level, the US may have to consider sending more troops.

Saying that he did not know how long the Marines would have to remain there, he wrote: "I believe that the continued presence of these US forces in Lebanon is essential to the objective of helping to restore the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Lebanon."

US accused by Russia of blackmail

Geneva (Reuters) - The Soviet Union yesterday accused the United States of trying to blackmail Arab states into accepting President Reagan's Middle-East peace plan.

Chouf pull-back delay angers Israeli troops

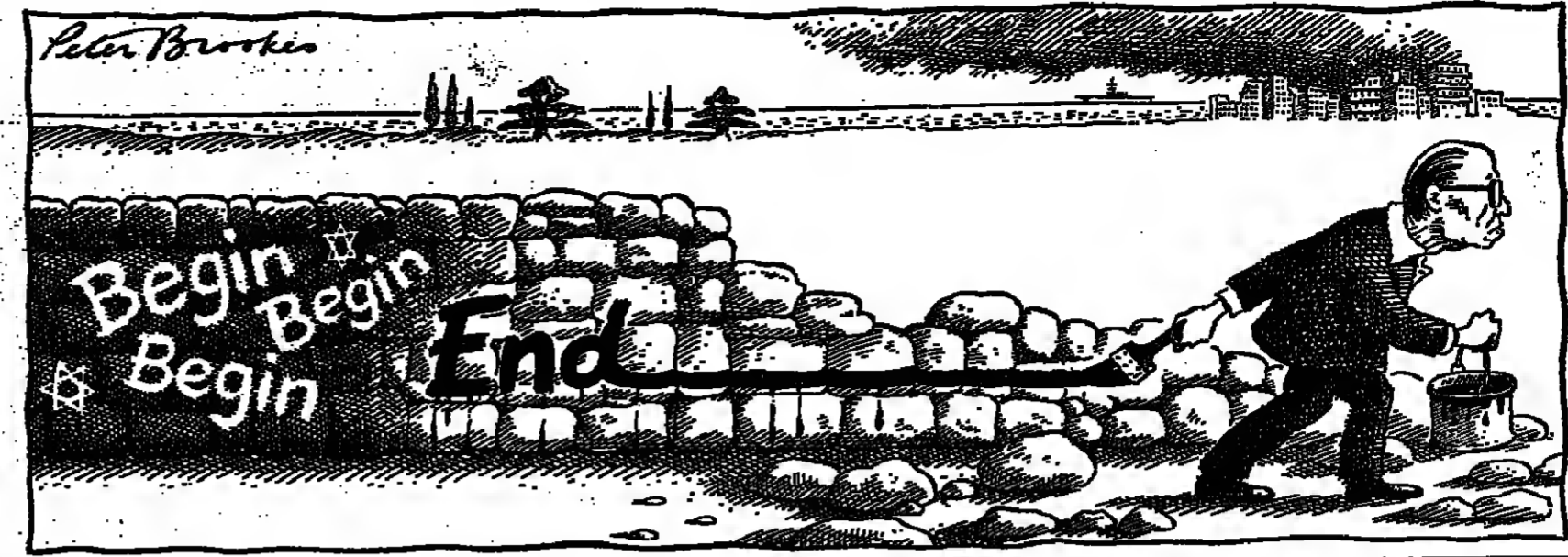
Widespread discontent has been reported among the 2,000 Israeli troops based in Lebanon's Chouf mountains since Tuesday's surprise government decision once again to delay their redeployment to a more secure front line further south along the Awail River.

Falklanders to put case at UN

The Falklands sovereignty issue has become a distant rather than a pressing preoccupation for most members of the UN Decolonization Committee.

Salvador guerrillas and Stone to meet again

After the first substantive face-to-face talks between representatives of the Reagan Administration and the left-wing Salvadoran guerrillas, both sides expressed optimism and a determination to hold future meetings.



Washington blamed for bases delay

Greece blamed Washington yesterday for a delay in signing the agreement about American military bases in Greece and said it would not tolerate the situation for long.

Zimbabwe sabotage trial had racial overtones

Zimbabwe's short history has produced more than a few courtroom dramas, notably the Jekere murder trial and the Ipra treason case. But the circumstances which gave rise to the Thornhill sabotage trial and the dramatic intensity of the hearing attracted unprecedented international interest and concern.

Shuttle puts up satellite for India

Kennedy Space Centre (Reuters) - The space shuttle Challenger put a weather and communications satellite into orbit for the Indian Government yesterday, keeping up the shuttle programme's perfect record for deploying commercial payloads.

Assets seized

Madrid (AFP) - The Spanish judiciary has ordered the seizure of all property held by Señor José María Ruiz Mateos, former president of Spain's leading private holding company Rumasa, which was nationalized on February 23.

Peak defiance

Chamonix (AP) - Three Polish Alpinists planned a huge red and white flag of the Solidarity trade union on top of Mont Blanc yesterday, the third anniversary of the Gdansk agreement establishing the union.

Waste hazard

Washington (NYT) - The amount of hazardous waste - 150 million tonnes being generated in the US is nearly four times higher than previously estimated, the Environmental Protection Agency has disclosed.



Last words: The masked leader of a group of hijackers meets the press after surrendering at Tehran airport

Iran's asylum offer ends hijack drama

Tehran (AFP) - Five hijackers, surrendered to authorities here yesterday after fleeing an Air France jetliner on a Vienna to Paris flight four days ago.

Chadians claim rebels burnt village in south

Ndjamena (AP) - Libyan-backed rebels burnt down a Chadian village in the government-held south last week in a sudden upsurge of rebel activity in the area, Mr Soumaila Mahamat, the Information Minister, said yesterday.

France cracks down on illegal immigrants

President Mitterrand's Socialist French Government, which once took pride in claiming that it had one of the most liberal policies towards immigrants in the West yesterday announced a series of tough new measures designed to crack down on illegal immigrants in the face of growing racism at home.

Chinese visitor

Peking (Reuters) - The Chinese Foreign Minister, Wu Xueqian will pay an official visit to the US from October 10 to 15 after a six-day stay in Canada.

Fire kills eight

Swansea, Georgia (AFP) - A fire in a mental hospital near here killed eight patients.

Border blast

Königshefen (AP) - An explosion on the "death strip" badly wounded at least two East German soldiers clearing mines, the West German border patrol said yesterday.

Net sabotage

Karlskrona (AP) - An anti-submarine net guarding an approach to Karlskrona, the secret naval base in southern Sweden, was sabotaged by a man cutting through its moorings.

Moscow denial

Moscow (AFP) - The Soviet Union has strongly denied recent Turkish allegations that Moscow was helping to train Armenian terrorists in Syria.

Cuban issue the obstacle on Namibia

South Africa's insistence on the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola remains the only obstacle to the implementation of a United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia (South-West Africa), according to Dr Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN Secretary General, who has just completed a diplomatic mission in the area.

SPECTRUM

Still running with Rabbit.

moreover... Miles Kington

IN the 1950s, the people were all young and lived in couples. America was booming. "Purchasing power: young, newly powerful, born to consume." Give or take a disturbing affair of two, the couples were booming too. They lived in lofts in erotic lower Manhattan, poorish as junior executives or promising young writers are poor. But the museums were close, and there was always a bottle of wine with the lasagna. "Exhaust smoke, cigarette smoke, factory smoke, all romantic." The bomb loomed, the great cars puffed what later became pollution. But the times were good, the future promising, and everyone got pregnant - as John Updike, who knew or was or invented these people, reminds us in his story "When Everyone Was Pregnant" (Museums and Women).



David Lodge



Paul Simpson

JOHN HOYER UPDIKE

- born: March 18 1932
educated: Harvard College
1955-57 Worked as journalist for the New Yorker magazine
1958 Hoping for a Hoopoe (in America, The Carpentered Hen), poem
1959 The Poorhouse Fair; The Same Door
1960 Rabbit, Run
1962 Pigeon Feathers
1963 The Centaur
1965 Assorted Prose
1966 Of The Farm; The Music School
1968 Telephone Poles, poems; Couples
1969 Midpoint and other poems
1970 Bech: A Book
1972 Rabbit Redux
1973 Museums and Women
1974 Buchanan Dying, play
1975 A Month of Sundays
1976 Harry Me; Picked-Up Places
1977 Toasting and Turning, poems
1978 The Coup
1982 Rabbit Is Rich
1983 Bech Is Back

So the couples became three and four. Purchasing power increased. It became time to commute to and from the Connecticut or Massachusetts shoreline, where the New Haven railroad or the Boston-New York shuttle brought the neat serious men back to the sexy delicate women and the children on the beach. But not all went well with the couples, grave people living in "the twilight of the old morality". Growing up from the 1950s was not easy. On the edge of their lives, history sounded uneasy messages: the tragic sinking of the submarine Thresher, the Kennedy assassinations. Churches caught fire, ministers were mystified by their ministry.

And there were always the sexual ceremonials, bodily ascensions in pursuit of a carnal liturgy. (One reviewer once nicely called Updike the pornographer of marriage.) Neighbourhood adulterous celebrants became involved. Though they went on believing in the magic aura of marriages and families, divorces came along. As gravely as they had tried the Jackson Pollock exhibitions and the Valpolicella, the couples tried them too. Uncoupled, they recoupled. Now around 50, they go on, the women stretch-marked but charming, the men still grave and anxious, unsure what history did to their charmed domestic world, yet still capable of delighting in it, and going on growing rich.

John Updike, who not only wrote Couples (1968) but many, many stories about these gracious pairs, is just over 50 himself. With his second wife, Martha, he has just been in Britain for a quick, jet-lagging visit to the Edinburgh Festival, which now has a book fair and a "Meet the Author" programme. He was interviewed by Frank Delaney, and read from his books, introducing a novel due next year. This brings his production to around 30, and the young prodigy is in vantage not so young. None the less, despite a distinguished greying of the hair, the angular good looks and the boyish east coast charm and gentleness remain as fresh and fine as ever. He seems, himself, like one of a good couple. What is more, he has evidently found the process of growing older from the 1950s quite vitalizing, despite the tempest of change and domestic upset on which many of his books toos.

But in any case the couples were only a small part of an enormous stock of invention, an extraordinarily varied list of books, the product of a graceful, stylish but very versatile mind. Yet somehow they seem very close to the heart of his work, a base-camp from which the others feel free to explore.

Updike was born, in 1932, in Shillington, Pennsylvania. This provided him with the "Olinger" country of his early stories, The Same Door (1959) and Pigeon Feathers (1962), a

fine myth-novel, very much marked, though, by the fact that round this date myth was the great sub-structure for everything. Since then there has been the world of "sexy" Manhattan, and then the "Tarbox" country, north of Boston, where the couples tend to live, as does Updike too.

Updike is something of a sacral aesthete himself. The early stories, like John O'Hara's, are set firmly in a Pennsylvania region, but this was not an O'Hara voice. Like Henry James, he was evidently after a sensuous education; and these tales of adolescent delicacy, looking in ordinary things for form, the Joycean epiphany, the illuminating revelation that lights up art and life at once. It would not have been hard to guess from them that his education had taken him to Harvard, where he studied English literature and worked on the Harvard Lampoon, nor that he had gone on from there to art school - in fact, on a Knox Fellowship to the Ruskin School in Oxford (indeed a story about dentistry in The Same Door celebrates this event). His hope was to be a cartoonist, but the stories and poems he wrote that year settled his fate. He was summoned from Illey Road to the editorial staff of the New Yorker, a natural habitat for a writer of his finesse.

He worked for two years as a "Talk of the Town" reporter on that wonderful magazine, founded for style, sophistication, and Abercrombie and Fitch. A good part of his work has always appeared there, including his excellent reviews. The literary agents now said that, if you wanted to crack the magazine, you had to write like an Updike. Certainly, along with John Cheever, J. D.

Salinger and Donald Barthelme, he has been seen as the best of their modern finds. His writing had that special polish, that brilliance and on occasion over-brilliance of style, that fitted its pages. His antecedents were more Henry James or Edith Wharton than Hemingway, Faulkner, or Fitzgerald. The risk was that he could become an American equivalent to a British Hamstead novelist - socially knowing, stylistically charming, witty and self-limiting.

By the end of the 1950s, the beginning of the 1960s, the books were appearing in great profusion, from the fine, carpentered poems of The Carpentered Hen (1958) on. There were novels, like The Poorhouse Fair (1959), story collections, children's books, gatherings of essays and reviews. The versatility was apparent, but this could have become enclosed space, especially since now, in the new mood of the 1960s, careful formalism began to crack. The talk was of black humour; absurdism, spontaneous prose, experimental reportage, and something called Postmodernism.

Philip Roth, the powerful Jewish-American writer whose career in some ways parallels Updike's own, marvelously anatomizes the time in My Life As a Man. The moment was one of high literariness; all relationships were an aesthetic crisis. Girl friends turned into Isabel Archer or Anna Karenina, and one married for the moral strenuousness. Literature got us into this, Roth notes, and literature was going to have to get us out. Updike evidently recognized the tension too, and his work is the work of a survivor working through the artistic conflicts of American fiction through to the present.

Yet Updike did get out, or rather

amazingly extended his range, partly through some remarkable impersonations. There was, for example, Rabbit, Run in 1960, where he identifies with his homme moyen sensuel, "Rabbit" Angstrom, the ex-basketball player and entirely physical man who sets out, running, to lose his social and marital identity. At first this looked improbable Updike territory. But, like his friend and mentor, John Cheever, who so surprised us by moving from his Wapshot world to the penitentiary of Falconer, Updike opened up not only his social landscape but his style. Rabbit has stayed with him ever since. Two more novels follow him onward and upward through commonplace American society to an ambiguous, late twentieth century form of heroism. Rabbit, in the middle of things, is rich.

Then there was Bech. It has always helped that Updike is a superb parodist, both a splendid and sympathetic literary critic and an artful stylistic impersonator. He grew fascinated by the dominance of the Jewish-American novel, and invented for himself an un-WASP surrogate in the hairy, promiscuous, slow-writing Jewish-American novelist Bech, who has grown used to being touted around hospitable campuses and festivals for his ethnic existential anguish and sexual aroma. Bech: A Book (1970) is a series of casually interlinked short stories about his Eastern European official tour. Subsequent visitors (I have been one) are regularly shown this Updiked socialist landscape, as they are the Olinger country or Tarbox; here is the Romanian critic, there the Bulgarian poetess.

Perhaps the most striking impersonation of all comes in his brilliant The

Coup (1979), where the narrator is Colonel Hakim Felix Ellelou, black dictator of the dry African state of Kush, who has been educated in the United States, and knows its wiles and corruptions. This is the most politically distanced of all Updike's novels, which usually take the realist's pleasure in the stuff of American reality. His books are uneasy celebrations of American life, troubled interplays between bright domestic interiors and dark history, which sense - like the couples themselves - that Grace has gone, but might be restored with aesthetic care and attention. They please a complex but large public; and Updike, too, is rich.

Updike's work had always walked carefully and seriously between familiar realism and the experimentalism that test it; between popularity and elaborate formal devotion. He not only knows but writes about the way in which the successful American writer is readily reduced to cozenage and imbecility. A new book of critical essays, Hugging the Shore, comes out soon, with a display of wide appreciativeness and a response to the most testing of our writers and critics: Italo Calvino, Muriel Spark, and the great American heritage of Melville and Hawthorne are among his subjects. In Edinburgh he aired a new novel which is neither Bech nor Rabbit. The Witches of Eastwick, set in the Vietnam period, should be out next year. Updike has been accused of sentimentalizing his women characters; he has tried here to challenge the view, which means challenging himself, the one thing his writing has always done. His survival has been made out of a rigorous artistic intelligence; and, in times when the contemporary American novel seems to have lost some of its glow and its direction, he is amongst the very best.

Malcolm Bradbury
Hugging the Shore will be published by Andre Deutsch in January, 1984.

Plastic is on the move

A significant step along the road towards a plastic car will be taken by General Motors in the United States next month when it launches a two-seater sports model, the Fiero. This will be one of the first mass produced cars from a big manufacturer to have a bodyshell of GRP (glass-reinforced plastic) instead of the usual steel and where General Motors leads, others are bound to follow.

Plastic bodied cars in themselves are nothing new. Small specialist companies in Britain like Lotus and Reliant have been using GRP for years but their bodies have been assembled and painted virtually by hand.

Plastic has two obvious advantages for cars. It is lighter than steel and, in the current quest for better fuel consumption, the saving of weight is one of the most important elements. Secondly it does not corrode, and after accident damage rust is the

biggest killer of a car. The problem has been adapting the manufacture and finish of plastic bodies to mass production. Now, with injection moulding techniques and the development of polyurethane paints that can be applied at temperatures low enough not to melt the plastic, the obstacles are being overcome.

Like the Lotus or Reliant, the GM Fiero still relies on a steel chassis for its strength and the completely plastic car is still far away. Meanwhile many plastic components are being introduced, which together can make a useful contribution to weight saving. Plastic bumpers, for instance, are becoming common on new cars (and they have the additional advantage of being able to absorb minor knocks without damaging the paintwork). Plastic fuel tanks are another area.

As for a plastic engine, we may see one in Formula 2 racing cars next year. A company in New Jersey has produced an engine which is 90 per cent plastic and tough enough to withstand high temperatures. It is only half as heavy as a metal engine. The result is a fuel saving of 24 per cent, but at the moment the engine is too expensive to produce to be a practical proposition for the average road car.

FINDINGS

A series reporting on research: CAR DESIGN



The BL digital display dashboard

A revolution will soon be taking place on the car dashboard. In place of the familiar series of dials there will be a single digital display on which the driver will be able to call up a range of information going far beyond that available on most cars today. BL Technology's research programme on instrument and information displays has come up with a cathode ray tube as the means of producing clear and easily readable messages. In normal use the screen could give such information as vehicle speed, engine speed, the amount of fuel

low oil pressure, charging system failure and low brake fluid.

Overcharged?

Sir Clive Sinclair is a bold, talented and imaginative man, but there must be considerable scepticism about his plan to put a viable electric car into production in the next couple of years. Electric cars have been with us since the dawn of motoring, but the technology has not advanced sufficiently to overcome two very basic drawbacks - poor performance and limited range.

The batteries so far developed to power electric vehicles have been so heavy and space consuming and need recharging so often - every 50 miles or so - that they have been more suited to slow moving short haul applications like milk floats and delivery vans, than cars. The electric cars that have emerged are mainly two-seater city runabouts, and they tend to end up in museums. The only one to go into serious production was the Enfield, but it failed to sell and the company went into liquidation.

So the portents for Sir Clive Sinclair are not encouraging, though from the wizard of the pocket calculator, the micro computer and now the flat-screen television, almost anything seems possible.

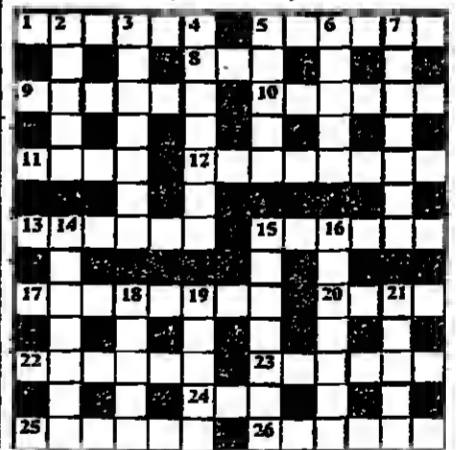
The Sinclair electric car will apparently be a three wheeler, single-seater, designed for city use and it will, Sir Clive maintains, be "totally revolutionary in concept". But even if he can overcome the technological barriers, he must still produce the vehicle at the right price. The trouble with the Enfield 8000, apart from its limited range and power, was that it cost twice as much as a Mini.

Road sensor

Daimler-Benz in Germany has developed a computerized navigation system that could answer many a motorist's prayer. What it does is to plot the way through a maze of unfamiliar streets and prevent the driver getting lost. Signals picked up by a magnetic sensor on the rear bumper which take into account speed and distance are translated by means of a pre-programmed cassette on to a fascia display. This gives two essential pieces of information - whether to turn left or right or keep straight on (indicated by an illuminated arrow) and distance to your destination.

Peter Waymark

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 138)



- ACROSS: 1 Slow gallop (6), 2 Heart chambers (5), 3 Moving vehicles (7), 4 Epoch (3), 5 War fleet (6), 6 Celtic (6), 7 Nonsense (4), 8 Happening (8), 9 Indian tribe (6), 10 Caper (6), 11 Common person (8), 12 Swallow hastily (4), 13 Cook too long (5), 14 Public speaker (6), 15 And not (3), 16 Rain protector (6), 17 Of many colours (6)
DOWN: 1 Heart chambers (5), 2 Moving vehicles (7), 3 Become aware (7), 4 Mysterious power (5), 5 Anticipate fearfully (5), 6 Pretender (7), 7 Fuss (7), 8 Become similar (7), 9 Framp (7), 10 Crystalline mineral (5), 11 Saravasa (5), 12 Not confused (5)
SOLUTION TO No 137: ACROSS: 1 Placid 4 Nicker 7 Oath 8 Camp site 9 Soapbuds 12 Old 15 Henry 16 Mentor 17 Mat 19 Rhapsody 24 Splinter 25 Ramp 26 Comet 27 Music
DOWNS: 1 Prop 2 Astronaut 3 Ducks 4 Nomad 5 Cash 6 Extol 10 Pater 11 Specs 12 Overdrawn 13 Dire 14 Wham 18 Appro 20 Hotel 21 Purge 22 Cup 23 Epic

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BOOKS

Fiona MacCarthy reviews the biography of Vanessa Bell Her will to keep on painting

Vanessa Bell By Frances Spalding (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £12.95)

They can keep I Tatti by far the most stirring of the artistic ménages of the years between the wars was indubitably Charleston, the farmhouse in East Sussex where the presiding genius was Vanessa Bell, the painter, Virginia Woolf's sister, who lived there, off and on, with Duncan Grant for 40 years.

So convincingly relaxed is the familiar scene at Charleston, as depicted in a multitude of memories of Bloomsbury, Duncan and Vanessa at their easels, Virginia and Leonard calling in for tea, Clive Bell in a sunhat in a ruok on the terrace, naked children running wild in the garden while upstairs in a bedroom Maynard Keynes sits composing The Economic Consequences of Peace that one tends to forget the mechanics in the background, preventing Charleston lapsing into Fawley Towers. This was Vanessa's so far underappreciated talent. Vanessa ordered meals and gave instructions to the servants, to whom the charms of Charleston were not always so apparent (a nurse she once employed described it as "a washout"). Vanessa brought the flowers in and carried out, with Duncan, much of Charleston's idiosyncratic decoration. She in fact created that whole atmosphere of Charleston, which so strangely and uniquely smelled of turpentine and toast.

Vanessa Bell emerges from Frances Spalding's sensitive and scholarly biography as an unexpectedly formidable figure, just as interesting, if not more so, than her sister. Her domestic powers of organization were remarkable, in that, seemingly without effort, she could transport her whole household and give or take a week, recreate the Charleston life almost anywhere in Europe, followed by whole cohorts of friends and hangers-on: the Bloomsbury Group peregrinations are amazing. And if her domestic energies were manifold, her amatory management was still more adept. For many, many years, practically for a lifetime, her husband, her ex-lover Roger Fry, and Duncan, the man she loved, a homosexual, remained friends and stayed within her own orbit. No mean feat.

What Vanessa Bell created with such fervour, she protected. Her household at Charleston was, like Eric Gill's not far away at Ditchling, prone to unexpected visitors, especially in summer. These she fiercely kept at bay, even going so far as to erect an OUT sign at the end of the track which led to Charleston. Those who were IN at Charleston presumably would realize the sign had been erected for everyone but them.

"How much I admire this handling of life," said Virginia Woolf one day, in the rather gushing tone she often used about her sister, on whom she both doted and depended. Compared with Virginia, Vanessa's life was certainly in some ways more ambitious, more fecund, more complete.



Vanessa Bell painted by Roger Fry, 1911

Despite husband, lovers, children, throughout all the complexities and fascinations of life at Charleston, with immense determination, even a certain ruthlessness, "an attitude more common in the 1980s than 1920s," she cleared the time to work. The OUT sign went up for herself as much as Duncan. Her will to keep on painting is described by Frances Spalding as a steel rod which ran right through her, from which she would not and could not be deflected. This aspect of her life, on which Dr Spalding, also Fry's biographer, writes with great insight and authority, is impressive in itself and particularly interesting at this period of major reassessment of her work.

This biography is very long and very detailed, and at times it suffers from what one might call the Virginia Woolf Syndrome. ("When the latter left for a holiday in Spain in March 1905, she forgot her sponge bag," see p.56.) No one will agree with all interpretations of all the minor characters, or even of the major ones: the view of Duncan Grant as almost the epitome of careless promiscuity is, I feel, particularly questionable. But the central portrait of Vanessa Bell is full and generous and it rings wonderfully true.

What a woman of dramatic contradictions. Deeply sensual but choosing to spend most of the life with a homosexual (the homosexual who had only very recently been sleeping with her brother). Manicly fastidious but able to encourage an affair and even co-maintain a marriage between her only daughter, child of hers and Duncan's, and a man Duncan himself had been in love with. Breathtakingly honest in her sexual behaviour, but unable to explain the facts of life to her own children. Almost a Ceres figure, munificently radiant, who could also be notoriously stingy, parsimonious with the housekeeping and meagre with the wages. A woman of considerable distinction and dignity whose clothes were very likely to be safety-pinned together. A person of immense sophistication and intelligence, whose view of the world was in other ways so circumscribed she once asked Mr Asquith, sitting next to him at dinner, whether he was interested in politics.

A compelling and an infinitely enigmatic woman whose only boring feature, so it now seems, was her bewily, nothing dating quite so badly as another's lewdness. But even those charades they played on "sodomy" and "passion" have an awful period poignancy of sorts.

Novelist as critic

Diversity and Depth in Fiction

Edited by Kerry McSweeney (Secker & Warburg, £15)

The skills of the critic and of the novelist are as different as those of the map-maker and the landscape painter; it is a rare thing if the two are combined in a single person. One thinks of the terrible piffle Tolstoy wrote about Shakespeare, or of Trollope's disappointing book about Thackeray.

Sir Angus Wilson, however, as well as being one of the few post-war English novelists to come close to being "a great writer", has always been an astutely catholic critic of literature, his book on Zola antedating his first novel by two years. One rereads his books on Dickens and Kipling, not merely as literary biographies, but for the illumination they throw on the art of fiction itself how it works. We can be glad, then, that in the year of his seventieth birthday, his publishers have commissioned a survey of his occasional essays and lectures.

That is not to say that the novelist and the critic always coexist very happily when Sir Angus has a pen in his hand. Indeed, it is the conflict between them which makes this volume so rewarding. He acknowledges this disarmingly in his essay, "The Novelist and the Narrator", when he says, "One has only to name Henry James to remember that some of the greatest literary criticism has come from the practitioner, from the depth of his experience. Yet, I am not inclined to suppose that a novelist is likely to have the abstracting sort of mind which will allow him to advance broad general theories of any particular merit." Precisely. The "broad general theories" that come alive in this book when he writes freely from "the depth of his experience". When he is being a critic on a rostrum, he can write of Jane Austen, "The extremes of religious feeling as the extremes of evil passion she probably avoided. Yet one is still forced to

ask her what was her view of human nature"; a question which, one suspects, she would have found comic. Yet the essay as a whole, "Evil in the English Novel" provides a classic contrast between over-schematic, over-emissions of evil in continental fiction and "that sense of felt life which is the glory of the traditional English novel". It is precisely because Jane Austen did not parade a "view of human nature" that we find her depiction of human characters so cruelly exact.

This is not to say that Sir Angus's best criticism is merely impressionistic; rather, that, because he does write as an experienced and deep novelist, he is able to show how evil, comedy, and passion can only be analysed in fiction by coming to grips with the purely technical problems of their presentation. An example of this is to be found in his extraordinarily intuitive exposition of Meredith's The Egoist, in which he shows that the triumph of Sir Willoughby's character, as a work of art, comes about precisely because Meredith departed from his pompous view of the test of true comedy is that it shall awaken thoughtful laughter; and that the greatness of Meredith is to be found more in his anarchic tight-rope walk between force and pathos than in his epigrammatic and descriptive poses, so much admired by the Victorians.

A short review can do justice to the most stimulating quality of Sir Angus's criticism, which is his expansive range. When we read these essays, we are not only inspired to turn back to Proust, Dickens, Zola, and Stendhal, but also to try such forgotten minor masterpieces as Sheila Kaye-Smith's *Jeune Madame Godden*. He writes somewhere that his own novels are "born of the coexistence of a fierce sadism and a compensating gentleness". Some of the judgments in the book are severe. (He is unduly harsh to Compton Mackenzie, I think.) Some are perverse. (How odd to say of Proust's Verdurins that they are "much less good than Dickens's Veneerings.") But each essay is marked by a reverence for the great writers and a sensitive understanding of anyone who has tried his hand at the art in which he himself has achieved such eminence.

A. N. Wilson

The writing life

Donkey Work By Edward Blishen (Hamish Hamilton, £8.95)

Edward Blishen is the Laurie Lee of the Secondary Moderns. His first book, *Roaring Boys*, about his teaching experience in them, turned him, in others' eyes, into an expert - an educational pundit. *Donkey Work* continues the story of Blishen's career as the "author of many thoughts on many themes", and tells how eager organizers constantly exploited, and promoted, him. As an infrequent contributor to the *New Statesman* he became, on introduction to one audience, its editor: "I felt upon each occasion the sort of awe one must feel when falsely identified with such a pretence of enthusiasm and knowledge." Simultaneously, he was conscious that any public pronouncement "even to the modest extent of a letter to the local newspaper was to let your head appear above the parapet."

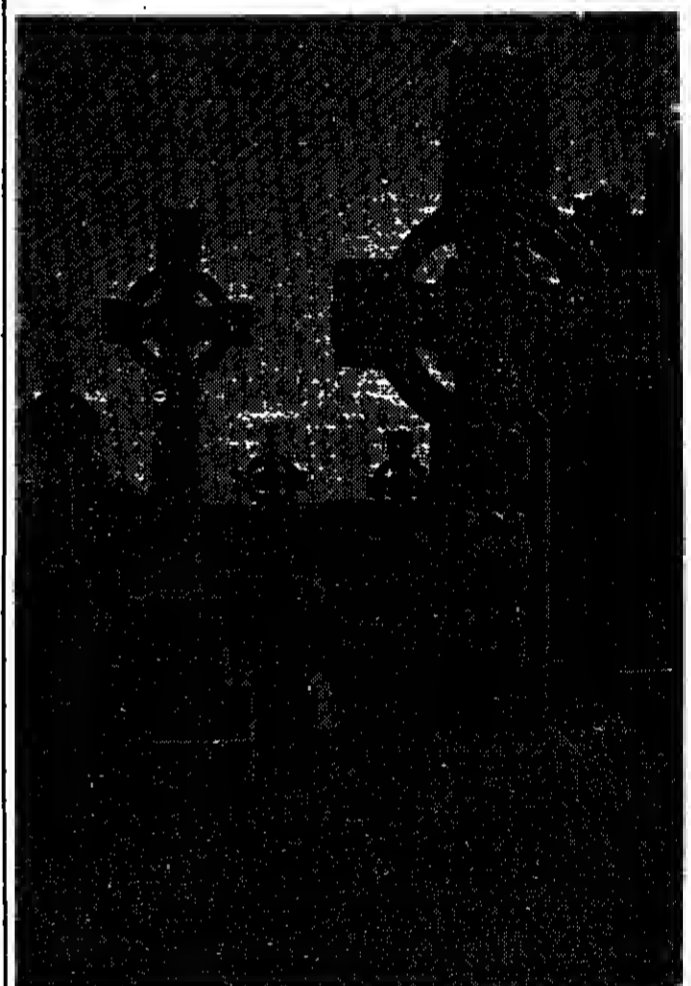
Blishen says what many of us "lably men" have been wanting to say for ages - it's donkey work: "broadcasting, reviewing, lecturing, wagging my finger to the time of five hundred words here, a thousand there, I'd become a sort of literary and educational beast of burden."

The pundit broadcast on the Third Programme, was invited to East Germany, lectured in Canada, and became a lecturer in a new university. His narrative is entertainingly anecdotal, about

the incompetent headmaster "who should have been forbidden by Act of Parliament to approach within a mile of any educational scene"; about the boy he cured of lying ("Well, you always believed everything I said. So after a time I thought, 'What's the use?'"); it is an embroidered account of fact interwoven with the fiction of his imagination. Extracts from the letters of his great-great-uncle writing from Canada and the Crimea where he died at Sebastopol are run concurrently with Blishen's own tale. His imagery has a Dickensian touch: his house was afflicted by dry rot: "I wept in infinitely sodden grey coils and banks. A building, we saw, could sob itself to death."

Yet there is evidence of the donkey braying. He paints himself too easily as a figure of fun, a silly ass. There is a self-indulgence, and self-absorption. The charm of autobiography is in the host of other people you meet besides the author. It would have been interesting to learn more about the old Labour Party, Richard Crossman and Jim Griffiths, than the account of a weekend conference on education at Clacton discloses. And why should he be so annoyingly coy about identifying the inhospitable university he calls Ribchester? Such reticence makes one long for the abrasive honesty of A. J. P. Taylor.

Brian Martin



Muirhead's Cross at Monasterboice, one of the oldest and finest Celtic crosses in the British Isles. From *The Beauty of Britain*, by Edmund Swinglehurst (Hamlyn, £5.95). Monasterboice, in the south of Louth in the Boyne valley on the borders of County Meath, is a quiet place notable for the ruins of a monastic community said to have been founded by a St Buidhe towards the end of the fifth century.

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Fiction The loyalties worth dying for: innocents abroad and at sea

Brothers By Bernice Rubens (Hamish Hamilton, £8.95)

The Proprietor By Ann Schlee (Macmillan, £8.95)

Belgravia By Charlotte Bingham (Michael Joseph, £7.95)

Bernice Rubens is too shy a writer not to tempt her reader into Russia 1825 without a touch of irony. And the novel is spiky with uneasy questions throughout. The litany of survival, which runs throughout the novel, rises from sensible advice given to children

recruited for the Tsar's army before their twelfth birthday. In context, it is sound, even in rabbinic terms. The more intransigent, fissid children, disappearing in the quicksand, point up the wisdom of the Bindel tradition: the only loyalties worth dying for are those of friendship and love. It is a litany which may not be buried however far the Bindsels travel from Okeana to Wales, the United States or Germany. Brothers are what all should be, but Jews are by no means the only group to find themselves excluded from that brotherhood.

And it is when we come to the settlement of the Bindsels in Germany, that the proposition, survive, at any cost, is put to the necessary test. At whose cost, to begin with, and finally, inescapably, what can give importance to such a survival.

The Nazis left no possibility of ordinary accommodation. There was no immersion in holy water; no change of name; even world service to the imperial crown was unhelpful. To survive, the crimes to be committed were so ugly that it is hard to accept the litany of survival any longer as innocent. It is Bernice Rubens's extraordinary achievement to take us beyond that anxiety into the logic of international communism and Soviet Russia, to bring the novel back to its true starting point. Those who found Ann Schlee's *Rhine Journey* at once fascinating,

and exquisitely written, may be a touch disappointed in *The Proprietor*. It is a fine, and solidly written period piece set in 1840. But it is also a slow and bitter book, generating emotion chiefly from an oppressive claustrophobia, at odds with the exposed and tide-racked island which has been chosen for liberal improvement. Because the island is so remote eventually we care much less for the ruthlessly well-intentioned man who sets himself the task of renewing the island's economy than we do for the old who have lost their sons to him, and the children who have lost their brief chance of escape.

The knack of being snobbish about snobbish belongs (with all its attendant risks) to the English above all. Charlotte Bingham's *Belgravia* has no illusion about either its means or its debt. I enjoyed it with a noisy hilarity which betrays, I like to think, a saving vulgarity in the writer.

Elaine Feinstein

Treason's Harbour By Patrick O'Brian (Collins, £7.95)

There was no shortage of applicants for Horatio Hornblower's berth when C. S. Forester died in 1966. Dudley Pope's *Lord Ramage* and Alexander Kent's *Bolton* took to the high seas in fairly short order, and C. Northcote Parkinson commissioned Richard Delancey, after first stripping away the did-he-kill-or-was-he-pushed fascinations of Hornblower with a volume of blunt solutions to each of the little mysteries Forester left behind.

Pope, Kent and Parkinson are all first-class naval constructors, plotniks to a man, adept at buckling every swash in sight. But none held Hornblower below the waterline.

Then, suddenly, Patrick O'Brian's Jack Aubrey was hulled up over the horizon and all was changed. Aubrey is overweight, only slightly heroic, has been pursued by debt collectors, has family relations more typical than ideal, is prone to extraneous witticisms, and has a seagoing medical friend and Admiralty spy who is no less engagingly loyal. His socks smell, his clothes are gabbly, and the two of them bicker, at friends in close confinement most intriguingly more, readily akin, presumably, to Nelson's day than any of these fictional contemporaries.

Aubrey and Dr Martin are men to believe in as they come to terms with their comfortable flaws against an exceedingly accurate Maltese backdrop in this, the ninth Aubrey novel. More power to your yachters, Mr O'Brian. Frank Peters

Marcovaldo By Italo Calvino (Secker & Warburg, £7.95)

The eponymous hero of this book of stories is the Italian version of Chaplin or Schwelk, an innocent who provokes comic mayhem whenever he walks abroad. Marcovaldo is an unskilled labourer who, because of his poverty, remains an outsider in the great city; he has been pushed into a corner but from here he notices, like John Davidson's clerk, "curious items" about life. He follows the cats as they make their way through their own city, and he watches the leaves yellowing in the park or mushrooms sprouting by the highway. From such things he discovers "the changes of season, the yearnings of his heart and the woes of existence".

Although he lives in a garret with his querulous wife and innumerable sickly children, even here he can lose himself since "in his imagination the damp walls disappeared and the room was a green farm among the fields". And yet such imaginations usually go awry: the mushrooms he gathers are poisonous, the park in which he wishes to sleep is invaded by workmen, the rabbit he rescues is the carrier of a deadly disease. And although this is ostensibly the record of a simple soul, what emerges most powerfully is the presence of a harsh and corrosive society which has infected even the things he holds most dear - the neon advertisements blot out the moon, the rivers have turned red and green with pollution. But Marcovaldo always rises above his disappointments, and in the process becomes a convincing representative of humankind: unhappy often, bewildered always, but at least capable of the most wonderful dreams.

In other hands this would become the tinnest of sentimentalities, but Calvino's lucid prose gives these stories the clarity and objectivity of fables. He is best known for his more self-conscious and apparently "literary" novels, in which by parody or elaboration he creates a number of linguistic "worlds" which succeed each other like slides in a museum exhibition. But it is clear from this little volume that the source of his inspiration is not really literature at all. Marcovaldo, too, sees different worlds because he cannot endure the indignities of the one in which he is forced to dwell. Calvino has given his hero the imagination of an artist - the kind of artist Calvino himself is. Peter Ackroyd

Founding father or sly colonial boy

Benjamin Franklin By Ronald W. Clark (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £18.50)

Benjamin Franklin has never been an easy man to like. From the 1720s, when he slipped out of his indentures as a printer's apprentice, to the time of the American War of Independence, when he spent his time philandering with society ladies instead of concentrating on his job as Congress's ambassador to Paris, Franklin always had his eye on the main chance. As a businessman he was the embodiment of the profit motive and he used his political position to enrich himself and his family. Yet he composed (and plagiarized) a host of priggish maxims on themes like "honesty is the best policy", "honesty is the best policy". These were, as Mark Twain said, "generations of whom were made to learn the wretched things."

Ronald W. Clark does not deem Franklin as a hypocrite. His liveliest writing consists of an exponent of middle-class morality any more than he praises him as "the first civilized American". He takes a properly detached view of his subject, setting him firmly in the context of an age when utilitarian ethics were fashionable and it was frowned upon to be married money. Indeed Clark's life of Franklin is just what one would expect from such an accomplished biographer. It is a good solid study based on original sources and it is particularly strong on Franklin's scientific work.

Clark shows that, like Darwin after him, Franklin was oddly vague about the details of his research. He was a "professional amateur" who twice nearly electrocuted himself during experiments. Not that Franklin was impractical; his invention of the lightning conductor testifies to his talent for finding useful applications for his discoveries. But his genius was for synthesis of a pure sort. Hence his momentous revelation that electricity and lightning are one.

It was this which made Franklin famous by 1750 and led to his being sent to represent the colonists in Europe. His main task was to prevent Britain taxing the Americans and he was given credit (mostly undeserved) for the repeal of the Stamp Act. Needless to say his efforts to stop the drift towards war were hopeless. He was perhaps too conciliatory to be a truly effective diplomat. He loved England and (though Clark does not say so) he seems to have established another message in London. At any rate he effectively deserted his long-suffering Pennsylvania wife, whom he pro-

sumably had in mind when he coined this aphorism: "Keep your eyes wide open before marriage, half shut afterwards." Franklin also cherished hopes of receiving rich pickings in the field of patronage from George III's government.

Had he done so it is possible that Franklin would not have taken the American side. As it was he corrected Jefferson's draft of the Declaration of Independence and became the sage of Versailles. Sporting his rustic fur cap and his bifocal spectacles, Franklin was the only man at court to wear his own hair. He became all the rage, celebrated on thousands of snuff-boxes, rings, plates, even hats and coats - and even in England. His efforts to win French support for the colonists were successful though, as Clark demonstrates, British spies knew his closest secrets, partly as a result of his own carelessness.

As Balzac said, Franklin invented not only the lightning rod and the republic but the heart. His liveliest writing consisted of an exponent of middle-class morality any more than he praises him as "the first civilized American". He takes a properly detached view of his subject, setting him firmly in the context of an age when utilitarian ethics were fashionable and it was frowned upon to be married money. Indeed Clark's life of Franklin is just what one would expect from such an accomplished biographer. It is a good solid study based on original sources and it is particularly strong on Franklin's scientific work.

Certainly Franklin had a well-developed comic sense. He anticipated by a century Oscar Wilde's epigram that the only way to get rid of temptation is to yield to it. He propounded the axiom that "God wants us to tittle, because he has made the joints of the arm just the right length to carry a glass to the mouth." Clark rightly says that Franklin's *Autobiography* is redeemed by its sly wit.

Nevertheless his prevailing tone is one of dogged Puritan didacticism. His page is always luminous but (as Johnson said of Addison) it "never blazes with unexpected splendour". Under his veneer of cosmopolitan *philosophe* Franklin remains New England entrepreneur, dispensing goblets of vernacular wisdom at two cents apiece. This admirable *Autobiography* makes one sympathize with D. H. Lawrence's angry diatribes against the "snuff-coloured little man" who had "all the qualities of a great man" and was "never more than a great citizen". Piers Brendon

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THE TIMES DIARY

Standstill

The Greater London Council's difficulties in mounting an exhibition at this year's Conservative conference to protest at plans for its abolition worsened yesterday. Banned by Conservative Central Office from the Blackpool Winter Gardens - for fear of vandalism by Tory thugs, GLC spokesmen suggest - the council had taken space in the adjacent shopping centre, Hounds Hill, which is owned by the Laing property group, generous contributors to Tory party funds. Yesterday Ken Livingstone's office heard that Laing had banned the GLC stand from Hounds Hill, both during the Conservative conference and the earlier TUC meeting. The GLC is now investigating the possibility of suing Laing for breach of contract - and searching for another site.

Concert deal

PHS has discovered in Edinburgh the most extraordinary artefact of Vienna 1900, the festival theme, not to be exhibited there. It is an art nouveau set of playing cards designed by the composer Arnold Schoenberg for use with his friends. The pack comes complete with an imaginary dialogue devised by Schoenberg between Napoleon and one of his aides in which they debate how the emperor can win at patience. The composer's daughter, Numa Schoenberg-Noro, says the cards demonstrate the remarkable craftsmanship her father applied to everything he did. Efforts are now being made to rush a few packs into concert-hall bookshops for music lovers to use while queuing.

● A man stabbed by his wife when he returned home from a drinking bout told Inner London Crown Court last week: "I now have a great deal of respect for my wife, which I did not have previously".

Gulpers

One of the English wines for which an exceptional vintage is predicted this year is called Gulper. This less than encouraging name derives, I suppose, from the fact that it comes from the Sussex Downs and, at £3.45 to £3.85 a bottle, should not leave you on your uppers. It could be worse. The lane in which the vineyard is situated is called Clappers.

Bedtime story

How hot are you in bed? A survey carried out for a firm who make electric blankets has revealed that only three couples in a hundred are completely compatible about the amount of bedding they require. The cold person, they say, is usually the female, for whom compromise entails wrapping up with extra rugs, bed socks and such. I regret to confirm that this is the case with Mrs PHS.



'They could always sell the name to a cheese manufacturer'

Shell guide

Potted geraniums and mint are effective fly deterrents, and marigolds absorb cooking smells, says *The Country Housewife*, published today by Hodder and Stoughton. That's fine, but I am more sceptical about the old wives' tales for consumption: boil 20 snails and a handful of daisies in water and take a spoonful with milk daily.

Hot under collar

I have been taken to task for my less than positive attitude towards negative ions and the gadgets that generate them. A spokesman for a firm that makes ionizers points out that they are offered to sufferers from respiratory complaints for a trial period on a money-back basis; letters from readers plagued with bronchitis and hay fever have claimed that an ionizer made a difference; and several colleagues with asthmatic children have seen a striking improvement in the frequency and severity of attacks. Nicholas Blacklock of the D'Aragnan restaurant swears his ionizer helps keep customers and waiters from getting stropic. I have installed the original ionizer in my bedroom in the hope that it might do the same for me.

The bassoon section of the Concertgebouw Orchestra, arriving in Edinburgh yesterday, immediately sought to arrange a visit to the local octogenarian whom they acknowledge as the world authority on their instrument. Lindsay Langwill, now 86 and in failing health, is author of a catalogue of bassoons. "He is to the bassoon what Kochev is to Mozart", the bassoonists said reverently. Alas, it is not certain Langwill will be fit enough to receive them. PHS

Reagan's right - and duty

Engene Rostow, until last January chief US disarmament negotiator, draws a distinction between support for the government of El Salvador and Cuban backing for the guerrillas

Cuba and Nicaragua hint that they would be willing to stop sending men and arms to promote the rebellion in El Salvador if the United States agreed not to help the Salvadoran government put the rebellion down. The agreement they propose would abolish the distinction between aggression and self-defence in international law and treat both as politically and morally equivalent.

For the US to embrace that proposition should be unthinkable. With remarkable consistency, the modern rules of international law have been applied to hold a state liable for any use of force from its territory to attack the territorial integrity, political freedom, citizens, armed forces or other sovereign interests of another state.

The rules recognize the inherent right of "individual and collective self-defence" in peacetime - that is, the right of a state being attacked, and of states helping it, to use a limited, proportional amount of armed force if peaceful remedies are not available.

The pattern of response to the illegal use of force has not always been effective, and in recent years it has become alarmingly ineffective. But the expectations and prescriptions of the law have long been clear in the rulings of courts and arbitrators and in the conditioned reflexes of foreign offices and defence ministries.

Thus, during Biafra's attempted secession from Nigeria, the world community treated aid to Biafra as obviously illegal, while international military support for Nigeria was accepted as obviously proper. Similarly, Libya's assistance to rebels against the

government of Chad is universally considered aggression, whereas French and US help to the government of Chad is considered normal.

These rules of international law, reaffirmed in the United Nations Charter, reflect the nature of states, and conditions necessary for their cooperation in the hazardous environment of the state system. Many international commissions have attempted to establish exceptions to the rules in order to legitimize international use of force on behalf of causes to which particular states are attached - notably, "socialism", "national liberation" and "self-determination". These efforts have failed because no state will support a rule that might be invoked to restrict its right of collective self-defence or to justify a guerrilla attack from a neighbour's territory against itself.

One great advantage of basing US foreign policy explicitly on international law is the neutrality of the law. The rules of law on the international use of force rest on a policy of preserving the state system, in which every state has an equal and overwhelming

interest. International law does not protect the "status quo", it establishes procedures for encouraging peaceful change. It says nothing about the right of a people to revolt against tyranny. It deals only with the international use of force, and it protects Poland and East Germany as categorically as it protects El Salvador and South Korea.

Apart from the various applications of the Brezhnev Doctrine, before which the West has stood mute, there has been only one deviation from the pattern of conduct sketched by these rules in modern times: the "non-intervention" policy that assured destruction of the Spanish Republic. The leaders of Cuba and Nicaragua take a leaf from the book of Hitler and Mussolini: during the mid-1930s, Hitler and Mussolini sent military supplies and then troops to assist Franco. This was open aggression against Spain. Other western nations were legally entitled to help Spain defend itself against the revolution but did not, hoping to appease Hitler and Mussolini.

The US must not consider repeating the mistake it made by supporting the "non-intervention" policy for Spain. It should never again abandon the rules of international law that condemn aggression and uphold states' right of individual and collective self-defence. The most fundamental goal of US foreign policy - achievement of a just, stable world order - will be beyond reach until the rules on the international use of force are generally and reciprocally observed.

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On a day of Polish protest, the same old refusal to listen

When will Jaruzelski heed the lesson of Gdansk?

Warsaw It was quite like old times in Gdansk. Briefly the clanging and the clattering of metal-pressing at the Lenin shipyards gave way last week to the hissing and whistling of truculent workers, angered at a minister's anti-Solidarity tirade. Looking flushed and uncomfortable, the Deputy Premier, Mieczyslaw Rakowski, launched his harangue in the very hall where three years ago yesterday the Gdansk agreement signed Solidarity into existence. "Swaggering... irresponsible... anarchic... confrontational" - there was no doubt where Mr Rakowski, erstwhile negotiator with Lech Walesa, now stands on the banned trade union. The workers, some of them anyway, made catcalls, shouted and heckled; Mr Rakowski pushed on regardless. Later Mr Walesa, now a humble electrician in the yard, stood up to defend the union and was raucously applauded.

The meeting was a light breeze after months of heavy thundering by General Jaruzelski's government about its concern for the workers' leaden monologues about dialogue. The government tactic is clear enough. It wants to show that it is capable of talking directly to workers without the mediation of Solidarity and that occasionally it is prepared to talk with people who do not nod in respectful agreement. Since the lifting of martial law the atmosphere has been (as Huxley once said of T. S. Eliot's criticism) like "a great operation never performed. Powerful lights are brought into focus, anaesthetists and assistants are posted, the instruments are prepared. Finally the surgeon arrives and opens his bag - but closes it again and goes off".

The government understanding of dialogue seems to be that the authorities make decisions and then explain the decisions to the workers, if possible through credible organizations. The Solidarity understanding of dialogue is that the workers sit down at the same table as the authorities and jointly shape a policy acceptable to the nation. Each version is unacceptable to the other side. The government says that



Mieczyslaw Rakowski: catcalls and heckling as he addressed the Gdansk shipworkers

Solidarity's idea of dialogue in effect means the first step to taking over power. Solidarity maintains that dialogue as "consultation" is the death knell of an independent nation movement guaranteed by the government when it signed the Gdansk agreement in August 1980. This unbridgeable gap has produced a crisis in the thinking and operation of the Solidarity underground. Under severe pressure from the authorities, its leadership has made a number of important tactical errors - including the unrealistic call for a general strike and, more recently, an industrial go-slow - which were based on the misapprehension that it was possible somehow to force the government into talks.

By concentrating on swift, dramatic protest - above all demonstrations - it has had to rely to a large degree on students, disaffected professionals and even adventurous sixth formers rather than on workers. Solidarity cells in factories have shrivelled - apart from the large ones in Gdansk and Nowa Huta - and underground factory coordinating committees have frequently been penetrated by the security services. Solidarity is still respected by the workers but there is a realistic assessment of the

substantial risk involved in return for a minimal gain.

In yesterday's protests marking the anniversary of the agreement, workers boycotted public transport and thousands attended a mass. But it is clear that protests will not reform the government and will not, except for a small minority of young people, radicalize the population. Critics within Solidarity say that the Gdansk anniversary should be the occasion for a major overhaul of strategy, workers should again become the main object of the organization and that Solidarity supporters should build up cells in the factories, even if they confine themselves, in the first instance, to collecting money for political prisoners and printing simple but reliable information bulletins.

The Solidarity strategists believe now that they must extol the virtues of patience. One of the first incidents of industrial discontent since the lifting of martial law - a work stoppage at the FSO car factory over holiday pay - clearly showed that the new government-sponsored trade unions are not carrying out even their basic functions effectively, are not even acting as a transmission belt of information from managers to workers. Influential voices in the underground thus

say: wait for the sham unions to collapse, then worker discontent will again mount and Solidarity should be prepared for this.

Whether the Solidarity planners are living in any more of a dream world than the government remains to be seen. Certainly the government is behaving as if Solidarity is dead (it was formally banned in October 1982) and detaching from this that there is no worker discontent in the country. As long as it talks only to the pro-government trade unions and "patriotic associations" of communists and sympathetic non-communists, then it will continue to believe that it is on the right course. That is a direct route to a new popular explosion of unrest: banning an organization that expresses grievances honestly and openly does not remove those grievances.

The Gdansk agreement was the result of more than a month of strikes and years of discontent over housing, health, wages, work safety, pensions and the privileges of the party leadership. Perhaps it has one lasting message to both the government and the clandestine Solidarity resistance: talk to the workers, and above all listen to them.

Roger Boyes

Telecom battle: lining up for round two

The Government's determination to cut back the size and influence of state industries is seen by many public sector unions as the biggest threat they are likely to face in the next five years. The first big test of strength between the two sides has arisen through the campaign being waged against the sell-off of British Telecom.

Six unions combined, at a cost of £500,000, to fight the first Telecommunications Bill and the Commons debate on the measure ran out of time when Mrs Thatcher called the general election, and now the unions are resisting the second Bill. But this time a new element has entered the contest.

The biggest union, the Post Office Engineering Union (POEU), is waging a guerrilla campaign aimed at blocking the campaign being waged against the sell-off of British Telecom. The union's action could come close to breaching employment legislation has not gone unnoted in Whitehall or by employers. Extra bite has been given to the POEU campaign since the union's executive swung to the left in June. One of the new leadership's first acts was to ensure that the conference policy of industrial action against Mercury was implemented. The main targets of the action have been operations of the three principal shareholders in Mercury - Barclays Bank, Cable and Wireless and British Petroleum. So far the action has had little impact, but its

significance may soon be felt in other areas. It is difficult to see how sanctions against those three companies can carry protection from civil action under the terms of recent labour legislation.

The companies are caught up in what senior BT management has already deemed as "politically motivated" action. The general manager of the state corporation's City of London area recently wrote to all staff warning that the POEU action would not force Mrs Thatcher to change her mind, and would only make the Government more determined.

Union officials are reluctant to discuss the legal advice they have received on the action, saying only that no one has told them it is illegal and that "until the union receives advice to the contrary, it is not aware that it is acting illegally". They also stoutly defend their right to oppose privatization, claiming that while the Government has a big majority, all the other parties, which together received more votes than the Tories in the election, were opposed to us to carry through what the union executive is elected for, to defend our members' jobs and their interests," one official said.

Managers have so far been able to connect BT equipment and the fledgling Mercury network, whose object is to win a lucrative business market, although it is restricted to an annual turnover equivalent to only 3 per cent of BT's business. The union is seeking support from

unions representing employees of British Rail and local authorities whose cooperation Mercury will need to lay cables linking the main cities and large towns. Once those cables are in place, the unions fear that connections with BT circuits will become permanent, enabling BT to "cream off easy profits".

Indeed, telephone engineers in the City, who professed to be typical of the majority of a POEU membership that is reluctant to take industrial action, made it clear in telephone conversations with *The Times* that the prospect of Mercury riding on BT's back to win the corporation's most profitable business has united members of all political persuasions. These engineers had no objection in 1981 to the principle of privatization or the breaking of the telecommunication monopoly, but they contended that competition must be fair. They also said they were not happy that Mercury was offering salaries about £1,000 a year above BT levels, with two-year contracts and a company car.

Political opposition by the union to privatization is likely to be one of the main issues at next week's TUC Congress in Blackpool, when it will be argued that denationalization would lead to job losses. The worst estimate of the effect on BT is that 100,000 of the corporation's 240,000 jobs would disappear. It is also held that services would deteriorate with the introduction of private capital seeking a substantial return on investment.

Simon Jenkins

Paying the price of rural ruin

I always loved cities and found the countryside dull. I suppose it is sheer exhilaration. Britain's cities seemed the cockpits in the continuity and change fought for the soul of British politics. As for their architecture, continuity has mercifully emerged (the partial victor). Bath and Chester, Edinburgh and York, Belgravia and Covent Garden are its battle honours, together with thousands of streets and districts protected from insensitive development. This, I assumed, should take precedence over the quiet round of country seasons.

Yet now that the fight for adequate laws on urban conservation is won, how should the townsman react to the sudden upheaval in the politics of the countryside? What can the urban conservationist say to his embattled rural counterpart?

The first thing must be, may heaven lend strength to your arm. After a summer of extended trips through the English and Scottish countryside - my first for a decade - I returned as appalled as other recent *Times* correspondents at what modern agriculture is doing to the landscape. From Cornwall through the Midlands and East Anglia to the Pennines and the Lowlands and Highlands of Scotland, a blight seems to be descending, grimly similar to that which afflicted British cities in the 1950s and 1960s.

It is a blight caused by insensitivity, subsidy and inappropriate scales. A hillside which I once knew to have four fields, divided by hedgerows and lines of trees, is now bulldozed to make one. Earth-moving equipment of a sort once confined to open-cast mining and motorway building is now used to wipe from the map footpaths, hedges, trees, copses, cottages, yards, streams. Buildings are erected of startling ugliness. Agriculture, which could once boast an extraordinary public affection, now presents itself to the world as philistine, rich and yet greedy for public funds (not least on the BBC's self-pleading *Farming Today*).

Perhaps most drastic of all has been the transformation wrought by forestry. Serried rows of conifers, laid out with no more sensitivity to landscape than a pipeline in the desert, dart across fells and dales. Parts of the Scottish Highlands look as if pattern bombed with spruces by a maniacal Forestry Commission. Moorland ends and trees begin according to no law of nature or respect for contour, apparently governed only by a ruler and set-square on a map. The concept of a tree-line, once so evocative to the hill walker, has vanished.

In the Highlands, the journey from Rannoch Moor to Gleocoe, across one of the great romantic wildernesses of Britain, is now flanked by a hillside poxed with incipient afforestation, trees planted as if this were a garden nursery. This is not true woodland, a replacement of the noble forests cut down in the industrial revolution. Time and again I found myself wondering, does Britain have no sensitive preservers - as once we wondered if there were no good British architects.

British agriculture is now a heavy industry, and like most heavy industry, is utterly entangled in government subsidy. The catalogue of grants available for agriculture

and forestry are already familiar to readers of *The Times*. Their sustained allocation to purposes such as hedgerow destruction and afforestation has so distorted the economics of the industry as to make irrelevant any appeal by either side to the "free market". We do not know what a free market in agriculture would look like. It is not insensible capitalism which is plaguing the uplands with conifers, it is Treasury-approved tax schemes. It is not the free market which smashes a medieval barn one day and tears up a row of ancient oaks the next, it is ministry and Common Market grants.

The irony for the conservationist is that we have seen this all before. The argument of the farming lobby today for "laissez faire plus subsidy" is precisely that of the urban landowner (including public authorities) for unfettered development rights in the 1930s and 1940s. Indeed, when desperate efforts were made between the wars to save important historic buildings from demolition, developers demanded (and for a while obtained) compensation for loss of value. This compensation was a devastating constraint. Had it not been ended after the last war - and had the concept of protection without compensation not been extended by Duncan Sandys to conservation areas - the faces of English towns today would be wholly different. It is doubtful if any of the buildings of Georgian London would have survived.

As now with the countryside, in the 1950s and '60s much of the urban battle was against, not for, public subsidy; the mindless clearance of good terraced housing in favour of council tower blocks; housing grants which discriminated against conservation in favour of new buildings; local authorities whose extravagance was matched pound for pound by Whitehall. Shortcomings there may still be, but Britain now has building conservation laws which are the envy of the world.

Some of our national parks, even some of our forests (under a now more sensitive Forestry Commission) prove that constructive rural conservation might yet achieve, but elsewhere, subsidized destruction is the order of the day. Countryside planning still lacks the clout of laws to enforce environmental protection without compensation.

Last year's legislation on sites of special scientific interest gave compensation to any landowner who even threatens environmental destruction, is a carbon copy of a 1932 planning act on historic buildings. It was passed by a farmer-dominated cabinet - rather like giving a group of landlords free rein with the Rent Act. It is half a century since we thought of paying the Duke of Westminster annual "rent" for not demolishing Belgrave Square.

One day, I am sure, our children will castigate us for allowing the bulldozer and the accountant unrestrained sovereignty over the countryside, as now we deplore the post-war urban clearances. There is, however, something we can do. Mr Nigel Lawson might at least stop using our money to fund this destruction.

The author is political editor of *The Economist*.

Peter Black

Riding away in my convertible asset

We have been riding about the neighbourhood incognito during recent weeks. I sold the blue Beetle convertible by which folks had learned to recognize us, they do not yet automatically associate us with the new car. The sale said something of great interest about the motor industry.

Convertibles are not what they used to be since the introduction of the anti-roll bar, a nannyish device which spoils the clean line and, by raising the centre of gravity, may make a roll-over rather more likely than less. It also suggests prudence, not the most conspicuous of a convertible buff's motivations. But any convertible is better than no convertible. So I welcome Ford's announcement that it is adding an openable Escort to the range of openable cars made by Fiat, VW and Vauxhall. I suppose it is too much to hope they will put the clock back further and reintroduce some of the fine models of the 1950s. Then you could choose between half a dozen makes, most of them the classic coupé de ville type; the hood could be folded and locked halfway back; thus shielding the front seats from those destroying backdraughts; or the hood dropped out of sight into a recess.

They cost a little more than the saloon. They died because the demand was constant but outside production had to fill, I had several cars of this sort. "Hélas!" French garagistes would cry. "Il faut s'agir de quelque star de pop!" But by 1973, when my last Hillman Minx was coughing up its innards, the only fairly open car in production was the Karman Ghia version of the Beetle. (I am not discussing sports cars, a different breed altogether.) It seemed absurd to pay £2,170 for a Beetle, but, as often happens, the apparently rash act turned out to be a brilliant commercial stroke. VW soon stopped making Beetles. My bet became a collector's piece about motoring. Most of us would rather have an open car; the appeal

is fundamental, however frustrated by prudence. Convertibles console the attractive side of human character that gets a hard time; the part that never grows up, never stops expecting something marvelous to happen, is never reconciled to routine and conformity. I built up quite a collection of notes stuck under the windscreen wipers. "If you ever want to sell, please phone..." Once a beautiful woman carrying a baby in her arms ran to me as I was buying petrol. "Would you do something for me?" she cried. "Anything," I replied. "Can I give you my husband's card? He's doing about Beetles."

I took the car to the Continent several times, in fact, and it, and ourselves by reflection, attracted envy and admiration. It was amazingly reliable. The time between the turning of the ignition key and the firing of the engine could be measured only by comparing it with the interval between the accidental shutting of the door on the tail of a cat and the angry outburst of that same cat.

After 10 years it had covered 44,000 miles. Then the Silkshif gear began to give an uncertain sound. It is a good, dull rule to sell an old car once it begins to make noises. I telephoned the number the young mother had given me. "What a pity, I've just bought one," her husband said. "How much did you want for it?" "No idea." "You'll get three and a quarter."

Thus it fell out. I made a profit of 50 per cent and could have sold it three times over. True, the 1983 pound is worth half its 1973 value; even so, I got my money back and had 10 years' value out of the car as well. It was a notable triumph for the romantic and adventurous temperament over common sense and caution.

But it would not have been possible without the cooperation of the motor industry, which created and maintained the scarcity in the teeth of evidence of demand.

هكذا من الاصل



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OUT OF TOUCH

Sombre rallying-calls issue from the leaders of the TUC as delegates to Congress prepare to meet in Blackpool next week for the first great gathering of the Labour movement since the general election.

failure of the movement to induce even 40 per cent of its membership to vote for Labour and a manifesto closely reflecting the policies determined by last year's Congress.

sides' while to talk: it fosters a sense of reality in both. It is those who reject it who are out of touch with the historic spirit of the movement.

HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY OF ROME

Pope John Paul II is not the first pontiff to find the Jesuits difficult to handle. His attempts to control them, though well short of the radical solution of Pope Clement XIV, have generated a sense of crisis in the order to which its General Congregation, opening today in Rome, will have to find a remedy.

the church's hierarchical structure, which was achieved, with characteristic absoluteness, by means of a personal vow of obedience to the pope. Consequently any difficulties in the society are the pope's responsibility in a special way, beyond his normal oversight of the major international religious orders.

And as most local hierarchies, especially in Central America, find themselves having to pick a cautious and precarious path through the minefield of their region's political tensions, the independent activities of the local Jesuits will seem more than irritating. The bishops are liable to be more conservative, but theirs is the responsibility for bringing the church through the fire which always threatens to engulf it. The Jesuits are the light, not the main force.

Export-led boom not so simple

From Mr Bernard M. Dembo
Sir, Having spent many years selling British engineering overseas, I am not at all surprised by the continued fall in exports, only that anything else should be expected, even by political optimists.

Excesses of some newspapers

From Mr Laurence Cummins
Sir, If the shabbier elements of Fleet Street can exercise no self-control it is possible that the TUC will win significant support for artificial restraint upon newspapers.

Unravelling the state sector

From Mr David Howell, MP for Guildford (Conservative)
Sir, Your Financial Correspondent's charge against me, made indirectly, of "indelicacy" on privatisation issues (August 25) is a peculiar one.

The poverty lobby

From the Director of the Child Poverty Action Group
Sir, David Walker (The Times, August 25) refers to "would-be poverty campaigners" in the 1982 SSRC study on the cycle of deprivation to support his argument that "the problem of poverty in Britain is a tissue of inadequate and even fecklessness, as well as material want".

"Breadline Britain" survey, to which Mr Walker also refers, confirm the extent to which the poor are still suffering "primary deprivation" in the sense that they cannot afford to keep warm or eat properly.

Britain's Nato role

From Group Captain P. W. Johnson
Sir, Mr Correll Barnett (August 23) has done as much as anyone to educate Britain to her new standing in the world and to dispel the many illusions of grandeur which had remained. It seems odd, therefore, to find him among those who believe that the Britain of today must continue to dabble in superpower geopolitics and that we have any defensible "bedrock" interest except the security of our own country.

Islington finances

From Mr George Cunningham
Sir, The Deputy Leader of Islington Council (August 26) suggests that the new five-way local newspaper which the council intends to finance with about £100,000 of public money will have no political affiliation to the Labour Party.

has regrettably turned down my request that he should refer this expenditure to the court for a ruling on its legality. Unfortunately present law requires the auditor to feel certain in his own mind that the expenditure is illegal before he can put it to the court: it is not enough for him to entertain a doubt as to its legality.

Saved in vain?

From the Reverend John Ticehurst
Sir, "Saving" a building like the United Reformed Church at Clifton Down in Bristol (report, August 24) is very much a Pyrrhic victory, surely? Who needs, in a city stuffed with unused premises and offices, an open-plan office nearly 60ft high with no toilets, no heating and no parking?

Young and jobless

From the Leader of Kent County Council
Sir, Mr Paul Lewis's letter to you (August 25) about the Kent County Council's plans to provide 500 Youth Training Scheme places is so grossly misleading that it needs a reply.

county council was wrong to make its intentions to create YTS places known through the Careers Service to young people before the local area board had approved them. The county council was not to know that the trade unions' stubborn insistence on the rate for the job would have the effect of sabotaging an important contribution towards youth training, which, incidentally, would have given a large number of school leavers a better hope of future employment.

unhappy, inattentive and indecisive. Removing the block by angioplasty under local anaesthesia restores the blood flow immediately and relieves the pain; ulcers that have been present for months heal within weeks and the patient becomes happy, alert and active within days.

Fakes at Lord's

From Mr Robin Simon
Sir, In a letter published in The Times on August 27 Mr E. W. Swanton made certain remarks about my assertion that some of the paintings in the MCC collection on exhibition at Lord's are forgeries. He states that the object of the MCC in exhibiting its pictures is "to present the game and its history".

devoted work of the present curator, Mr Stephen Green, and his assistant and to state that I extend this respect to the remarkable work of his predecessor, Miss Rait-Kerr. I am glad that Mr Swanton saw fit to quote the heartfelt acknowledgment made in this regard by my co-author and myself in the preface to our book, The Art of Cricket.

Under fire

From Mr Philip Niman
Sir, The article in The Times of Saturday, August 20, "The men who died at dawn", exposes the stupidity of courts martial in those days. However, I can speak from first-hand experience of a more modern outlook.

To the point

From Mr Simon A. Moy
Sir, On the matter of public literacy ("Missing the point") readers, to whom the hyphen is a sealed book, claim an insight into the customer's state of mind when they acknowledge settlement of a debt "Paid with thanks". How can they possibly know?

Body and mind

From Mr Peter Davies
Sir, Dr J. W. Fawley (August 24) refers to lack of appreciation of psychosomatic factors in illness by practitioners of the NHS implying, as do many practitioners of alternative medicine, that most diseases are due to the influence of the mind on the body.

There are many situations in which care of a diseased body produces a salutary effect in the mind. Orandum est ut sit mens sana in corpore sano.

Colourless cricket

From Mr John Hastings-Bass
Sir, Mr Palmer's letter (August 16) laments the disappearance of the cricket cap.

Colourless cricket is a feature of cricket in China at least. The Peking Cricket Club was founded (or perhaps re-founded) last August when an England team played an Australian team for the Tianjin Cup.

COURT AND SOCIAL

SOCIAL NEWS

The Duke of Edinburgh, grand president, will preside at the opening of the twenty-second conference of the British Commonwealth Ex-Services League at Windsor Castle on October 24.

The Duke of Edinburgh, president of the Westminster Abbey Trust, will preside at a trustees' meeting in Westminster Abbey on October 27.

In aid of the British Amateur Athletic Board and the British Olympic Appeal, at Grosvenor House on September 13.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J. A. R. Brudenell and Miss E. V. L. Hicks. The engagement is announced between Jeremy, second son of Mr and Mrs Michael Brudenell, of Dulwich, and Edwina, elder daughter of Mr David and Lady Pamela Hicks, of The Grove, Brightwell Baldwin, Oxfordshire.

The Duke of Edinburgh, president of the National Playing Fields Association, will present the president's certificates at Buckingham Palace on November 1 and, as honorary fellow of the Plastics and Rubber Institute, will present the fourth Prince Philip Award.

Lady Anthony Hamilton gave birth to a daughter on August 24 at Omagh, Co Tyrone.

Lady Vestey gave birth to a son on August 27 in Oxford.

A memorial service for the Hon Bernard Bruce will be held in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, on Thursday, October 13, 1983 at noon.

Mr R. L. Onians and Miss F. C. C. Williams. The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Professor and Mrs R. B. Onians, of Cambridge, and Frances Williams, of Harrogate, only daughter of the late Mr and Mrs R. E. H. Williams.

Mr A. L. Orley and Miss M. C. Roots. The engagement is announced between Anthony Laurence, son of Mr and Mrs Laurence Orley of Alresford, Hampshire, and Melanie Claire, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Philip Roots, of Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

Mr J. C. Richards and Miss P. A. Tierman. The engagement is announced between John, only son of Mr M. Richards and the late Mrs M. Richards, of Armida, Cumbria, and Pauline, daughter of the late Mr P. Tierman and of Mrs M. Tierman, of Greenford, Middlesex.

Dr S. A. Madgwick and Dr J. M. Carroll. The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of Mr F. A. Madgwick, of Nital, South Africa, and Mrs R. B. Putter, of Lynton, Devon, and Julia, daughter of the late Sir John Carroll, KBE, and of Lady Carroll, of Marryat Road, Wimbledon.

Mr C. W. Berezford Hartwell, RN and Miss D. C. Aungler. The marriage has been arranged between Christopher William, eldest son of Mr and Mrs G. M. Berezford Hartwell, of Wallington, Surrey, and Dawn Cathryn, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs R. F. Aungler, of Wallington, Surrey, and will take place at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Reddington, at 2 pm on Saturday, September 3.

Mr N. P. M. Bingham and Miss J. J. Mackenzie. The engagement is announced between Neil Peter, youngest son of the late Mr J. S. Bingham and of Mrs Nancy Bingham, of Inverness, and Jennifer, only daughter of the late Mr J. R. Mackenzie and Mrs Joan Dilly, of Hurley, Berkshire.

Mr P. J. M. Hartog and Miss U. Franzen. The marriage took place on August 20 in the Cathedral of Aachen, Germany, between Peter John Maurice Hartog, son of Mr and Mrs Philip Hartog, of Wassenaar, Holland, and Miss Ulrike Franzen, daughter of Professor Dr Franz Franzen and the late Fr Doris Franzen of Cologne. The marriage service and Nuptial Mass were conducted by Canon Maurice O'Leary, uncle of the bridegroom.

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Luncheons

HM Government. Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host yesterday at a luncheon at Admiralty House given in honour of the Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism of Tanzania, Mr Clement George Kahama.

Commonwealth Press Union. The Commonwealth Press Union held a luncheon in London yesterday to mark the presentation of the 1983 Astor Award to Mr Leslie Ashenbrenner, president, Viscount Rotherham, president. Among those present were: Lord Ardwick, Sir Edward Pickering, Mrs Leslie Ashenbrenner, Mr John Barrons, Mr Alan Brooker, Mr Brian Nicholson.

Reception. British Safety Council. Mr Enoch Powell, MP, Mr R. Freeman, MP, Mr W. Hamilton, MP, Mr N. Hanson, MP, Sir Anthony Meyer, MP, and Lady Meyer were guests at a reception held yesterday at the Middle Temple Hall for the presentation of the British Safety Council's diploma in safety management, to Mr James Tye, Director General of the British Safety Council, was the host.

Dinner

HM Government. The Hon George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, was host at a dinner held last night in Bute House, Edinburgh, to mark the visit to Scotland by the Prime Minister.

Birthdays today

Miss Violet Carson, 78; Mr N. H. Castle, 70; Miss Barbara Dean, 59; Sir Errol dos Santos, 93; Mr Gwynfor Evans, 71; Air Chief Marshal Sir Robert Freer, 60; Mr Allen Jones, 46; Lord O'Neill, 50; Miss Daphne Park, 52; Mr Cecil Parkinson, MP, 52; Sir Austin Pearce, 62; Lord Riverdale, 82; Mr Miltoo Sulman, 65; Lord Thomson of Fleet, 60.

Latest appointments

Mr Peter Viggers, MP for Gosport, to be parliamentary private secretary to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury. Mr Roy Watts to be chairman of the Thames Water Authority for five years from October 1.

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Church in tax battle

The Inland Revenue is refusing to pay Stowmarket parish church in Suffolk a £2,000 tax rebate because the church missed two words out of its tax document.

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The Inland Revenue is refusing to pay Stowmarket parish church in Suffolk a £2,000 tax rebate because the church missed two words out of its tax document.

University news

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The doll's hairstyle which helped to date the tomb

Exhibition centres on ivory doll

From Peter Nichols, Rome

A tiny Roman doll, made of ivory, is the centrepiece of an archaeological exhibition of unusual charm on Rome's Capitol Hill. The exhibition is devoted to one of the most important discoveries made when large areas were being cleared a century ago to prepare Rome for its new role of capital of a united Italy.



Articulated limbs, Roman style

The doll, nine inches high with an exquisitely carved head and movable limbs, was found in the tomb of Creperia Tryphena, a young woman buried with a splendid collection of jewels, during the preparation of the foundations of the present law courts, in May 1889.

Creperia's body was reduced to a skeleton inside its marble sarcophagus but it was covered with clear water. Weeds had grown around the skull and, as they moved in the water, they gave an impression of hair blowing in a breeze.

There were two tombs but that of Creperia made the deepest impression because of the presence of the doll. At the time it was thought to have been made of hardened oak or oak; but modern tests show that the substance is ivory. The woman's face was turned as if to look at the doll.

Archaeology

Largest Saxon town found

By Norman Hammond, Archaeology Correspondent

Excavations in Southampton have located the boundary ditch of the Saxon town, and shown it to be much larger than had been thought.

The town, now known to be 45 hectares (111 acres) in area, making it by far the largest town to England at the time.

The remains of several streets have also been found, laid out on a grid plan which indicates deliberate town planning, and the houses along them were very closely spaced.

"This is the earliest evidence available anywhere in post-Roman Europe for a regular grid pattern of streets, and makes Hamwic crucial to our understanding of the origins of the English and European town", said Mr Mark Brisbane.

His estimate of 150 people living within the area of the site, which was in the most distant part of Hamwic from the core around the quays on the Itchen, could mean that the town's population in AD 700 was about 9,000.

Hamwic would thus have been larger than contemporary London, and far bigger than the royal city of Winchester a few kilometres to the north, for which Hamwic was the port. The regular plan may well have been the result of royal orders, perhaps of Ine, King of Wessex at the beginning of the eighth century.

Numerous trades were carried on in this miniature metropolis: iron, bronze and gold were worked, the latter craft in dictated by a dish matrix for making gold foil or embossing sheet gold. Buttery was complemented by tanning and bone-working, and pottery and glass may have been manufactured.

Glass was also imported from the Rhineland, together with querns for grinding corn, and whetstones came from Norway. Coins show contacts with Mercia in the Midlands, with Kent, and with northern France.

Until the Viking raids of AD 840, in fact, Hamwic was "a busy, thriving port and market town", Mr Brisbane said. When it was replaced by medieval Southampton, 1.6 kilometres (1 mile) to the south-west, under the heart of the modern city, the latter settlement was half the size of its Saxon predecessor.

Oxford man measuring up to the Yard

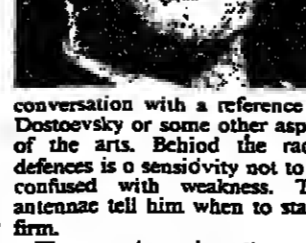
By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Richard Wells, aged 43, who takes over today as Scotland Yard's director of information, is one of the new-style officers coming to the top in British police forces.

"Practical coppers" (as they like to be known), used to have a phrase for officers like him: "nine-day wonders".

That was jargon for young men destined for rapid promotion by virtue of their academic prowess rather than years of service. The antipathy dated back to the recruiting of an officer-cadre elite by Lord Trenchard when he was commissioner in the 1930s.

Mr Wells joined the Metropolitan Police in 1961 after graduating in modern languages and literature from St Peter's College, Oxford. His personality bears the imprint of the survival techniques he has learnt on his way to the top.



Mr Wells stood firm on two principles: "firstly the commissioner has absolute discretion as to what we teach and by whom it is taught; and secondly, John Fernandes will not be reinstated."

That was shown in a dispute at Hendon Police school where he became a commander in June 1982 in charge of police recruit and cadet training. It showed he could put his career on the line to handle a hot issue without getting burnt.

26 civilian lecturers at the cadet school to stay away from Hendon in protest at the dismissal of Mr John Fernandes, a lecturer, who was asked to leave the premises in November 1983 for leaning to the right what the police still refer to as "allegedly racist" essays written by cadets. Sixteen lecturers defied the ban.

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He praised the loyalty of the 16 who defied the council. They eventually accepted teaching under Barnet Education Authority which takes over responsibility for academic studies this month.

He has become the second youngest deputy assistant commissioner since the war.

OBITUARY

CAPTAIN E. H. B. BAKER

Advances in hydrographic surveying

Captain E. H. B. Baker, DSO, who has died at the age of 83 was a Royal Navy hydrographer whose major contributions to the improvements in naval surveying which took place in the 1930s thanks to the introduction of the echo sounder, particularly through his command of the survey ship HMS Challenger.

Edmund Henry Buckingham Baker, subsequently to be widely known throughout the Royal Navy as "Buck", was born in 1900 and served as a midshipman in the battle cruiser Indomitable during the First World War. In 1920 he went to Cambridge, returning to sea as a lieutenant two years later and specialising in hydrography.

His first survey ship was HMS Keltet in which he carried out work on surveys of the Thames estuary and the South coast. Later he worked further afield and he was involved in surveys of the west coast of Africa, the Red Sea, Borneo and Malaya, before returning to home waters where he stood by the building of the survey ship Challenger.

He was one of the officers of Challenger's first commission which embraced surveys of the east coast of Scotland and Labrador. During the winter of 1933-34 he was left in Labrador in charge of a shore based survey party and it was here that he was involved in a notable episode when he made a 300 mile sledge journey from Nain in the severest winter conditions to go to the assistance of a Hudson Bay company trader of Hebron who had got into difficulty with the Eskimos.

On his return from Labrador in 1934 he took command of HMS Keltet and spent the next three years in charge of surveys to home waters.

In 1937 he was appointed to command HMS Challenger. The development of the echo sounder in the 1930s had given a new dimension both to accuracy, speed and ease of surveying as

compared with the old lead line methods and to the new echo sounder-equipped Challenger Baker was able to oversee important survey work in the West Indies, the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf, which has been of enduring value.

During the early part of the Second World War he was employed on survey work in connection with minelaying operations off Scotland and Iceland and in the Denmark Strait and in 1940 was involved in inshore surveying of coastlines and approaches to harbours during the Norway campaign. Later he was on the staff of Headquarters Combined Operations and did survey work in the Western Approaches before being sent to the Middle East where he commanded HMS Endeavour in the Red Sea.

He was about to be sent home from this appointment when the German threat to the Aegean island of Leros became apparent and he was sent to this theatre where he was captured when the Germans took Leros in November 1943.

As a PoW in the naval prison camp, Mariag und Milag Nord at Westerland in Northern Germany he found a new role as officer in charge of "security" - those details of escapes which it was advisable to keep a closely guarded secret from those not directly involved and, of course, from the Germans - as well as occasionally lending his very fine drawing hand on the preparation of false documents for would-be escapees. An abrupt character his fine combative stance towards his custodians as a senior prisoner was also a factor in keeping other PoWs in good heart in those wearisome conditions.

After the war he returned to the hydrographic department where he alternated sea and shore appointments. His sea time finally culminating in his command of the survey ship HMS Cook at the Coronation review at Spithead in 1953, where he was the senior captain afloat.

He was awarded the DSO in 1944 for his services in the Aegean.

MR HUBERT BLAKE

A colleague writes: Hubert Blake, MBE, was born in London in 1893 of Devon parents. As a young man he joined the stockbroking firm of L. Powell, Sons & Co, eventually becoming their senior partner. One of his main concerns was always the welfare of the staff and he was responsible for starting a pension fund for them which is still in force today.

He retired from the firm (which became associated with Laing & Cruikshank) in 1965. He remained a member of the Stock Exchange for several years and was made a "Father of the House" after 50 years as a member.

In his younger days he became interested in the Scout Movement and took an active part in the training, both physical and educational, of young men.

At about the same time he became a member of the Highbury Quadrant Congregational Church in North London and formed a Young Men's Society attached to the church.

He felt that there was a need to provide young men and women from all walks of life with an opportunity to meet in a calm and friendly atmosphere to discuss and consider the big questions of life and religion. All points of view could be freely expressed, while at the same time he hoped to present the Christian point of view, which, he felt, was so often completely misunderstood.

He played an active part in drawing together the young people attending the church by means of social functions, dances and sports. He remained a member of the Stock Exchange for several years and was made a "Father of the House" after 50 years as a member.

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Field Lane Foundation. The Priory is now a residential home for the elderly, and Mr Blake served as chairman of the home's committee until 1965.

He then concentrated all his efforts on helping the elderly disabled in the community, especially those suffering from multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, arthritis and similar afflictions. As he was keenly aware of the inadequate provisions made for them when they no longer could find for themselves, he bought a property in Finchley and converted and adapted the house to meet their special needs. The major part of the funds provided for this purpose, he provided from his own resources.

After several extensions this home now accommodates 19 residents, all severely disabled, in need and receiving special care and attention. Together with his wife he was substantially involved in the day-to-day running of the home for 18 years, and was chairman of the management committee throughout this time.

Hubert Blake's public service was recognized by his appointment as MBE in 1975. He will be remembered by innumerable other people who benefited from his generosity, his advice and help given freely and always in a quiet and unassuming manner.

Dr Eva Pawlik, who was European champion in figure skating in 1949, has died in Vienna, at the age of 55. She won a silver medal at the 1948 Winter Olympic Games at St Moritz, and was runner-up in the world championships in that year.

After 1949 she turned professional. She then studied at Vienna University, graduating Ph.D. in 1955. In 1957 she married Rudi Seeliger, a fellow skater.

Sir Kenneth Owen Roberts-Wray, GCMG, QC, who died on August 29 at the age of 84 was Legal Adviser, Commonwealth Relations Office and Colonial Office from 1945 to 1960. He had chaired the 1944

THE ARTS

London theatre A bleak warmth

Our Day Out Young Vic

Arriving at the Young Vic via television and the Liverpool Everyman, Willy Russell's pocket musical seems to have been born and bred in Waterloo Road.

Played against a curtain-sized enlargement of a school essay, Our Day Out begins in the same blow-by-blow style with the sight of a pack of comprehensive no-hopers being frisked for lemonade and chocolates, and loaded on to a bus for an improving trip to Bodiam Castle.

Before long the fags are out, a junior teacher is being propositioned from the back seats and a mutinous chant of "boring" is greeting the Sussex countryside. They descend on a cafe-like locusts, then stop off at a zoo, returning laden with kidnapped animals, and thence to Bodiam (represented with a blow-up of an infant-school picture) where the staff find themselves delivering information on the strategic use of the barbitic into the empty air.

Besides staging a school essay, Mr Russell is also presenting a duel between two members of the staff: the liberal woman teacher who organized the trip (Rosalind Boxall) and a diehard authoritarian (Stephen Lewis) who joins in as the resident killjoy. From his point of view, such trips are educationally worthless. From hers, these children have no educational hopes anyway, so why not at least give them a good day out? "We're in a job that's funded to fail."

The skill and zest of the show, wholeheartedly projected in Bob Eaton's production, derive from its success in following the adult argument through while preserving all the fun of a story for and mainly played by children.

Recruited from schools all over London, the company teams with sharply defiant personalities, among whom the quiet girl who refuses to come home is no less striking than the grinning lady-killer in the back seats. Apart from Marie O'Keefe, mooring us to her love for "Silly" to one of the best numbers, they are not up to solo; but, so far as organized chaos and disciplined chorus work go, they are a treat.

They also persuade you to view the events through their eyes as a Dickensian fairy tale in which the Scrooge-like features of Mr Lewis gradually melt into those of an indulgent uncle, who celebrates his conversion by leading them off to the fair in a cowboy hat at which point "Silly" to one of the best numbers, they are not up to solo; but, so far as organized chaos and disciplined chorus work go, they are a treat.

"Why can't it always be like this?" asks the runaway girl on the beach. By the end it is clear that all they have had is a day out. I have rarely seen a show that combined such warmth with such bleakness.

Irving Wardle

FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER... THE ORIGINAL UNEDIT VERSION... GRAND PRIZE CANNES FILM FESTIVAL 1963 BURT LANCASTER IN LUCHINO VISCONTI'S THE LEOPARD GATE CINEMA NOTING HILL 221-0277/9750

STARY THEATRE, CRACOW Jerzy RADZIWILOWICZ Star of Man of Marble in Nastasia Filipovna based on DOSTOEVSKI'S The Idiot directed by Andrzej WAJDA 6th-11th September at 8.00 p.m. TICKETS: £9/CONCESSIONS: £3.00 rverside studios Criso Road Hammar Smith W5 1AB 3364

Banzai, Bowie! ALEXANDER WALKER STANDBY EXTRAORDINARY SEXUAL TENSION NAME NOW SHOWING IN LONDON OGS SHAFTSBURY AV. 524 5881 HAYMARKET 538 1827 FULHAM RD. BAYSWATER GARDEN PLAZA AND AT YOUR LOCAL OGS

Dance Inside the mind of a mad genius

New York City Ballet Covent Garden

Tuesday night's performance, an all-Balanchine programme, brought the last of the London premieres in New York City Ballet's Covent Garden season.

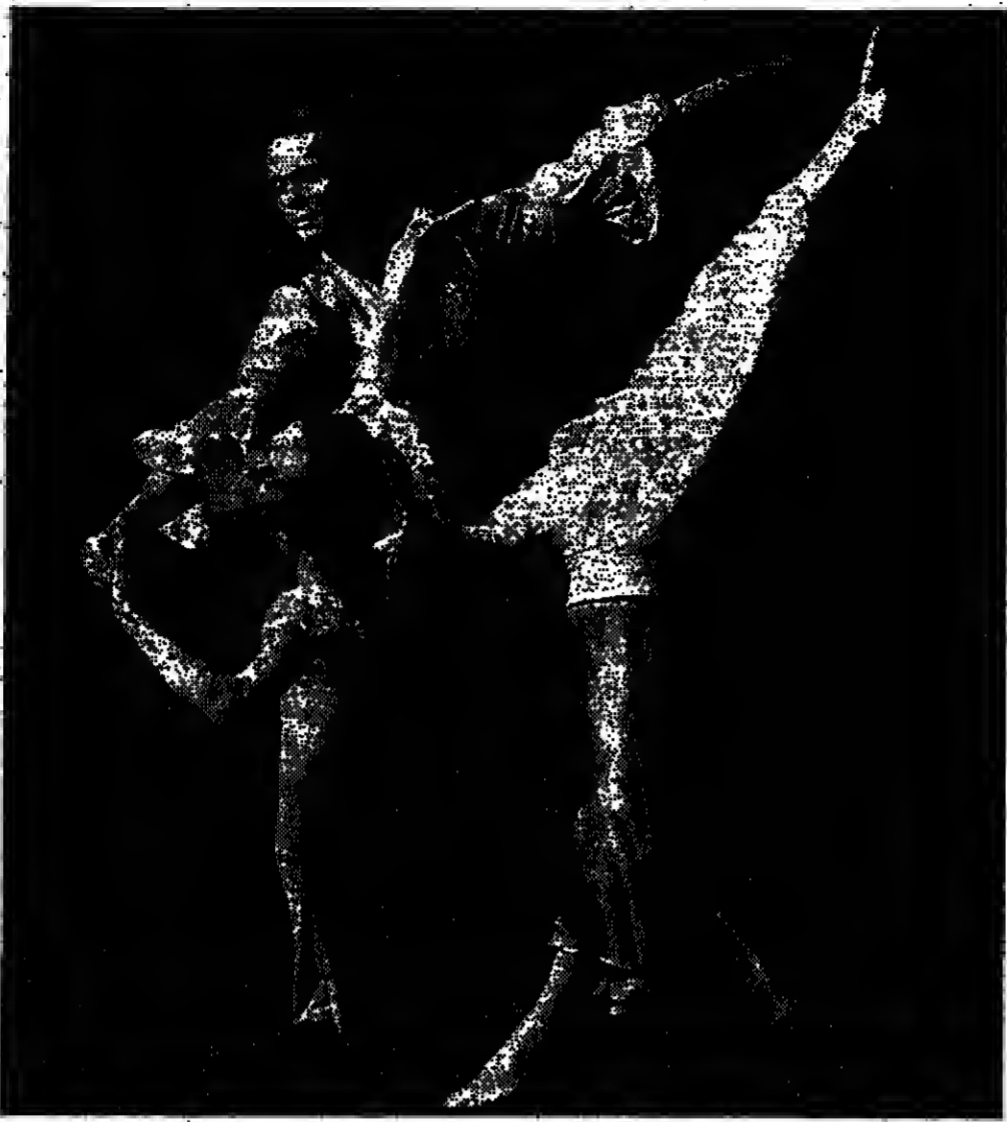
Balanchine insisted on the laborious title Robert Schumann's "Davidsbündlertrance" for the big ballet he created in 1980, so it is not fanciful to read into its action an allusion to the composer himself as well as his ideas of a brave young group, David's Band, going out to smite the Philistines. Perhaps everything must be seen as happening inside the poor mad genius's mind.

What the setting depicts is a fragment of a great hall where a pianist sits playing with his back to us. The arches of the wall are echoed in the jagged curves of dead trees visible beyond, on the shore of a lake from which an imagined cathedral rises. The idea of the setting, based on a painting by Caspar Friedrich, seems to me a lot better than this crude realization by Rouben Ter-Arutunian.

I called it a big ballet, and so it is in scope, but the pianist, Gordon Boezner, is the only musician and the cast consists of just four couples, usually with only two dancers at a time on stage. Among them, Adam Liders perhaps comes closest to Schumann's Enseebius; it is he who at one point is threatened, by Philistines emerging from the shadows, nasty black creatures wielding huge quilts (critics, obviously). Liders ends the ballet, too, bidding farewell to the gracious Karin von Aroldingen.

The qualities of the various dancers are admirably used, especially that pair, and lovely, capricious yet contemplative Suzanne Farrell paired with the courteous formality of Jacques d'Amboise, Stephanie Salanti and Ib Andersen are the most impetuous couple, Heather Watts and Peter Martins curiously subdued but with a scarcely concealed strength in reserve.

As in Liebestieder Walzer, Balanchine has his women wear beeled shoes to establish a naturalistic mood before they change into ballet shoes to allow the dances to leap into a more fanciful manner. Von Aroldingen changes back for her last entry, and the men wear low heels throughout. This device enlarges an already wide variety of styles, from a drinking song to lovers' heart-pourings, through which the



Closest to Enseebius: Adam Liders with the gracious Karin von Aroldingen

choreography expresses the nature of the romantic artist. But perhaps Balanchine would say he was just making dances to match the music; which they do to perfection. Each to his own reading.

I have space only to mention two remarkable performances among new casts in the other

ballets given. Leading the Mozart Divertimento No 15, Joseph Duell proved himself a classical dancer of exceptional bearing, style and finish, and Heather Watts illuminated Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto by the exemplary articulation of her dances in space and time.

John Percival

With Visconti's The Leopard restored to health, and opening at full length in London today, Geoff Brown asks how much more suppressed film remains in the archives

Reformation in the wake of Napoleon

Burt Lancaster's proud prince, with Claudia Cardinale, in The Leopard



For a few days in December 1963 zoological warfare erupted in Britain's newspaper headlines. "The Leopard Must Stay: I Will Sue", shouted the London Evening Standard on December 18; he was suing, moreover, a company of foxes. The small print explained matters. This Leopard Man was the director Luchino Visconti, adapter of Giuseppe di Lampedusa's masterly novel about nineteenth-century Italy in transition. I gattopardo, the film had won the Golden Palm award at Cannes that year. The foxes were the Twentieth-Century breed, who released the film in Britain and America with damaging cuts, bleached colour and an irritating English-language soundtrack. The war had reached the Times letters page the previous day: Visconti himself wrote from Rome, voicing his disgust in gentlemanly terms. But two months earlier, in the Sunday Times, no words had been minced: the director despatched a postmarking telegram to Fox's print out of hand ("It is now a work for which I acknowledge no paternity at all") and summoning the spirit of Robespierre ("It is time for some heads to roll").

In the event no one was guillotined and Fox were never sued; time just marched on. Sydney Pollack, the television director hired by Fox to supervise the new version, soon progressed to respectable work on the big screen; the leading players - Burt Lancaster, Alain Delon, Claudia Cardinale - variously flourished; circulating prints gradually deteriorated, then disappeared. Seven films and 13 years later, Visconti died. Now, suddenly, the Leopard Man is scoring a posthumous victory: after spending time and money doctoring his work, Fox have just spent more time and money repairing the damage. New prints have been struck from the original Technicolor negative and English subtitles prepared; the restored film, 186 minutes long, opens today at the Gate Cinema, Notting Hill, in London. The Leopard, it seems, can change its spots - along with the fox.

Fox's reversal may be ironic, but it is not beyond comprehension. By linking up with Hollywood, Visconti and his producer ensured an enlarged budget, wider international release and the required services of Burt Lancaster - what other actor could incarnate Lampedusa's proud Sicilian prince, who touched chandeliers with his head and bent cutlery by mistake? As a corollary, however, Visconti's stately, atmospheric epic became prey to Hollywood's market forces. In 1963, the art-house audience that might have appreciated Italian disquisitions on history and politics was not yet clearly established; Fox's hands were also too occupied with Cleopatra to give The Leopard any special treatment.

Twenty years later, different market forces operate. Mass cinema audiences have dwindled and splintered, and the Hollywood factory belt has almost seized up. To meet these changed conditions, Fox now sports an "International Classics" division, primed to snap up quality imports

and repackage their past. Fear of subtitles has also dwindled; the distributors of Fassbinder's Lili Marleen and Querelle actually smothered their English soundtracks with German dubbing to market them profitably as exotic foreign films. Then there is the Napoleon factor. Kevin Brownlow's painstaking restoration of Abel Gance's film suddenly turned the excavation of cinema history into something romantic, glamorous - a media event.

With The Leopard in good shape, mountains of mangled or discarded celluloid still remain somewhere on distributors' shelves, in archive cupboards or under beds, waiting to be stitched together. Perhaps the original 42 reels of Stroheim's Greed are out there; hope springs eternal, though for Welles's magnificent Ambersons there seems little hope of redress - all the cut footage has reportedly gone up in smoke. Yet for other titles the prospects look rosy. The new climate certainly benefited Michael Cimino: in 1979 United Artists considered Heaven's Gate too big for its boots and forced the director to wield the scissors, successfully smashing its tenuous narrative to smithereens. Yet by 1982, at the Venice Film Festival, the cuts were restored; the complete version recently played in packed houses at the National Film Theatre.

In America new life has also been granted, a little surprisingly, to Vittorio de Sica's 1953 film Stazione Termini. Here is another Italian production which tangled with Hollywood (more precisely, David O. Selznick) and emerged, suited - cut to 64 minutes and retitled Indiscretions of an American Wife. The wife was Selznick's own, Jennifer Jones, co-star with Montgomery Clift in a droopy drama about separating lovers, set in Rome's new railway station. Selznick removed a loud Italian wedding party, some hot kisses

and scattered surveys of station architecture. "I cannot pass judgement", de Sica said, so under Visconti, though he did venture that Selznick had perhaps cut "a little too much". Now, thanks to a nitrate print located in Japan, the architecture and kisses are back; the film lasts 95 minutes, and one trusts audiences are appreciative.

Paradoxically, the world's new respect for what French film posters call the version integrale has surfaced just when the definition of an original version is crumbling. From the linguistic standpoint, there never was an original Leopard; the international cast began work in English and slowly drifted into their own native tongues as shooting continued, every edition, therefore, was dubbed to some degree, and the present Italian version cuts us off from Lancaster's voice. But recent financial marriages between film, television and video have brought extra, fiendish complications.

Europe's television stations enable major directors like Bergman and Francesco Rosi to create works designed simultaneously as features and television series (the extended version of Pomy and Alexander is scheduled for the current Venice Film Festival). The small screen also allows directors to remodel their past work. The version of The Godfather saga showing throughout next week on BBC television not only expands Coppola's two films with unused footage; scenes are now positioned in chronological order, altering the atmosphere and shifting emphases. As financial deals and packaging devices multiply, the notion of the unique, untouchable art-work seems more and more in peril. But, with the splendours of the restored Leopard before us, the paradox poses no problems.

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL Loving sense of untheatrical stillness

Doña Rosita, the Spinster Royal Lyceum

Lorca's elegy for a beautiful girl in turn-of-the-century Granada, condemned to spinsterhood and a society watching its own time running out, is brought to Edinburgh by Nuria Espert's company. It gives, even for a theatre-goer with little Spanish, a blessed taste of quality and delicacy amid the rubbish and his-and-his-ministerialism that we up here are finding hard to avoid. The Cherry Orchard will follow it here next week, and it stands the comparison honourably. Rosita's brief happiness with her cousin-fiancee who is called to

South America and never returns is portrayed with an unembarrassed lyricism that sets Spain a world away from Russia, and the accepted social apparatus of wedding-dress subordination and nightgown sewing-for-the-bride nights as a torment that no disappointed girl in Chekhov ever endured.

Prodigally, Lorca brings on stage a host of characters who intensify pressure on both the spinster and her social group; sparing and pathetically genial unparables a few steps below, careless nouveau riche above (and how in a drawing room's atmosphere crackles with those two classes facing each other) and a sweetly dignified old poet turned poor schoolteacher and suffering humiliation from rich brats.

In Espert's company these little parts, without exception, are carefully cast and beautifully played; as so often when watching great European theatre groups, you experience a sense of stillness, loving dedication and untheatricality which innocently casts shadows of nagging doubt over our own companies. Outstanding are Carmen Bernarros as Rosita's young aunt, Carlos Lucena as her unworshipfully devoted to roses and Julia Martinez in the wonderful role of the carthily outspoken housekeeper.

Espert herself is mesmerizing. She ages, in convincing departure from Lorca's direction, largely by tightening her hair in a bun, and finally by a faintly hunched shuffle in a white shift that answers Lorca's image of the rose changing from morning red to white death at night. Already, in Act II, she allows herself an arresting, apprehensive glance at breasts, face and waistline. In the great speech recognizing her despair, she tipsos as if dreaming.

Jorge Lavelli's production uses unorthodox stage placings with creative assurance, and Max Biggins's set has the same flair. His gauze front curtains and cyclorama frame an austerity suggesting rather a museum than a salon with real rooms beyond, but embrace the widows and spinsters in the white of the dying rose, the trousseau and the shroud.

Anthony Masters

Television Prosy Shakespeare, stabbing guitars

Romeo and Julietta (Channel 4) was set in the Brazilian town of Ouro Preto which has, according to the commentary, "one foot in the eighteenth century and one in the twentieth"; this must be a most uncomfortable position, and may account for the fact that it could only topple backward into

the sixteenth. Although this Brazilian adaptation was "from William Shakespeare", it might just as well have been taken from the works of Mrs Oliphant or Theodore Dreiser. Apart from the final two lines, there was no poetry at all; perhaps Brazil is the place where the cuts come from.

Romeo enters in a plaid shirt; he is eating in a cafeteria and remarks about "choking gall" or "bawling love" might have been out of place, so instead his first line is "I'll kill that bell ringer woman". Since he is a "student of pharmacy", the Shakespearean prospect of poison opens up. It

was to prove the first disappointment of the evening.

Nevertheless this production had a certain measure of authenticity. With plaster images of the saints on every conceivable pedestal, the boys dressing up as girls and the women callously treated by every male in sight, Ouro Preto was as close as we are likely to get to the original setting. But in modern dress the result was still peculiar, like a version of Grange Hill directed by Buñuel with the Shakespearean elements provided by subdued lighting, the sound of guitars and the occasional stabbing.

Peter Ackroyd

We regret that the name of the artist Bridget Riley was wrongly spelled on this page yesterday.

STARY THEATRE, CRACOW Jerzy RADZIWILOWICZ Star of Man of Marble in Nastasia Filipovna based on DOSTOEVSKI'S The Idiot directed by Andrzej WAJDA 6th-11th September at 8.00 p.m. TICKETS: £9/CONCESSIONS: £3.00 rverside studios Criso Road Hammar Smith W5 1AB 3364

Concerts Intense confrontation of arrogant foes

BBCSO/Lutoslawski/Hickox Albert Hall/Radio 3

...and if, by the way, I start this review in mid-summer while you are still dipping into the breakfast cereal that gives a rough idea of the effect of Roman Jablonski stabbing casually at his D string while the Promenaders are still rustling, thus launching the extraordinary, ruminative cadenza which opens Lutoslawski's Cello Concerto. Concerto form is wittily

reinvented in this 1960 classic of confrontation between an arrogant soloist and an overbearing orchestra; until Tuesday night I had heard the piece played only by its dedicatee, Mstislav Rostropovich, in whose hands the gestures are larger than life. Jablonski, who played the piece in Glasgow's Musica Nova in 1981 and in New York recently, brought to it a much tighter intensity; the brittle edges of Lutoslawski's invention were always emphasized, and he characterized even the tiniest phrase - a brief flourish near the close sticks in the memory, swept off the cello into the air - with great precision.

The Soldier's Tale is a masterpiece of Stravinsky's: Cubist phase; the separate components of narration, action, instrumental music and dance trace on planes slightly askew. In place of this neat geometry, Finnissy's Vaudeville offers a hotchpotch which seeks excuse in appealing to the spongy American tradition of popular entertainment, and so includes comic

sketches, dance routines, songs, flamenco and melodrama. That may make it sound like fun, but the material is all so weak it would have been howled off the stage by the notoriously ungenerous vaudeville audiences. And, if that was not the point, then I wonder what is the point in paying homage to a style while forgetting all the quickness, variety and vulgarity which made that style live.

One is left with the work's two efforts at a non-vaudeville consistency. First there is a birth-death scenario that fits all the

The composer, conducting the BBC Symphony Orchestra, encouraged the brass to noisy onrushes against the soloist's ambition, and seemed to enjoy deploying his forces on this refined battlefield.

Earlier his Livre pour orchestre, which he had conducted with the orchestra earlier this season, sounded technically more confident but musically less impressive, as if the gestures had taken over the content. The audience added its contribution to the aleatoric interludes (intended for relaxation, says the composer) with great commitment.

The second half of the concert, conducted by Richard Hickox,

included Chopin's Second Piano Concerto played by Shura Cherkassky, who fitted around the keys with far too much sylph-like delicacy for my taste.

He underplayed the ornaments, pushed some of the inner parts into inaudibility and reduced several of Chopin's dynamic markings by several notches, so that what bore structure there is in the piece seemed to dissolve. The playing was winningly charming to an ever-widening audience, but Hickox drew a firm account of the deeply uninteresting accompaniment - though a grotesque mistake from a horn spoiled the most sensual bar of the piece.

Nicholas Kenyon

damp squibs between damper enforcements of babyhood and old age. Second, there is the music. Some patches are interesting enough to remain one that Finnissy is an enormously better composer than this, and the score is played with gritty determination by Music Projects/London under Richard Bernas. But their task is an unenviable one, if not quite so embarrassing as that of the four people who must present themselves and such artistically comatose vaudevillians on stage.

Paul Griffiths

AUTUMN GARDENS NUMBER Uncommon Autumn Bulbs in an article illustrated in colour, Brian Mathew suggests some less familiar flowers for autumn. Garden on the Kent Coast Arthur Hellyer considers the changes made in recent years in the important Lutyns garden of The Salvation, Sandwich. Greenhouse Design and Setting Ken Lemmon looks at different styles of greenhouses and ways of placing them decoratively in the garden. Autumn Daisy Chains Christopher Lloyd selects his favourite daisies for the autumn. Too Many Plants Spoil the Garden Tony Vemison suggests that many gardens suffer from overcrowding with plants. COUNTRY LIFE ON SALE NOW

WALL STREET PRICES & COMMENT THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

MARKET REPORT by Michael Clark

Cope bid looks likely

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began, Aug 15. Dealings end, Sept 2. Contango Day, Sept 5. Settlement Day, Sept 12.

It looks as though a second bid for Cope-Allman International may be around the corner - just four months after the Dowable Consortium's abortive £24m approach.

Yesterday, a large put through of 2.2 million shares in Cope, way above the market price, set the ball rolling. The timber group Hollis Bros ESA, rescued last year and now controlled by Mr Robert Maxwell, was the seller.

Hollis held about 7 per cent of the shares which it bought in opposition to the bid from Dowable headed by Hawley Group's Mr Michael Ashcroft and British Cit Auctions' Mr David Wickham.

Full year figures are expected from Cope next week. The group

has already forecast pretax profits of £2.6m for the second half making a total of £1.7m for the year against £1.6m last year.

Mr Louis Manson, chairman of Cope, said, "We have received no approaches". Aspinall, the Knightsbridge-based gaming house, jointly owned by Sir James Goldsmith and Mr John Aspinall, is coming to market. Brokers Drew, Laker, Raphael, Zorn hope to arrange its market debut towards the end of next month but have not decided whether to apply for a USM listing or go for a full quote. It is estimated the group could be worth about £60m and is capable of profits of more than £11m this year.

Elsewhere, share prices continued to beat a hasty retreat in the face of the latest gloomy report from the Confederation of British Industry and the uncertain

future over US interest rates. As a result nervous profit-taking after the record-breaking run earlier this account was enough to clip a further 8.9 per cent from the FT Index at 707.4.

Leading industrials were almost all marked lower with ICI down 8p at 442p after recent support stemming from press comment, while the threat of one leading off-shore chain selling its own label brand of cigarettes at 89p a pack wiped 6p from Imperial Group at 111p.

However, remained nervous ahead of interim figures next week sliding 4p to 208p. In the absence of a bid several leading brokers believe the shares to be worth only 150p on a trading basis. The market is looking for pretax profits of about £26m against £42.3m and for a full year £57m compared with £72m for last year.

Other weak spots included Blackspan 5p to 235p, East 4p to 168p and GEC 5p to 203p. East

German's dumping of cheap cement in Britain saw the price of Bisc Circle Industries crumble 7p to 421p. East German cement costs between 5 to 6 per cent less than its British equivalent, despite transportation costs.

Shares of Tesco rose 2p to a new high of 158p yesterday in the eve of a seminar being arranged by brokers Phillips & Drew. Later today a coach load of City analysts will receive a guided tour of several of the group's stores followed by a meeting with Sir Ralph Porter, chairman, and Mr Ralph Temple, finance director. The rest of the market will be anxiously awaiting their findings.

British Assurance has bought 925,000 shares (6.1 per cent of the equity) in Ward & Goldstone, the troubled wires and electrical accessories group. Earlier this week it revealed that Robert Fleming, Ward & Goldstone's

merchant banker, and Simon & Coates its stockbrokers, have resigned in the wake of Mr Michael Goldstone's dismissal as managing director of the group. Mr Goldstone was dismissed because of his decision to oppose the closure of the group's cable division. Yesterday shares of Ward & Goldstone held steady at 80p.

One of the biggest movers of the day was the Danish-based Novin Industrie. It was 27 higher at £215 after receiving permission to market its human insulin drug in the US. Brokers Wood Mackenzie still believe the shares are undervalued and are looking for another substantial increase in pretax profits of £4.5m.

City came under renewed selling pressure still upset by the disappointing US money supply figures over the weekend which pointed to a further postponement of a cut in American interest rates. BP rallied to close unchanged at 436p ahead of figures today.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Chg, % P/E. Includes sections for BRITISH FUNDS and SHORTS.

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THE TIMES 1000 1982/1983. The World's Top Companies. The top 1000 UK companies with all statistical details.

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Sterling: Spot and Forward

Table with columns: Market rates (day/night), 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, 12 months. Includes sub-sections for Money Market Rates and Other Markets.

Money Market Rates

Table with columns: Clearing Bank Base Rate 9%, Discount Rate, Overnight High 5%, Week Fixed 5%.

Local Authority Bonds

Table with columns: Buying, Selling, 3 months, 6 months, 12 months.

Secondary Mkt. SCD Rates

Table with columns: 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, 12 months.

Investment Trusts

Table with columns: Alliance Trust, Anglo Saxon, Anglo-Scottish, Anglo-Thai, Anglo-Texas, Anglo-United, Anglo-World, Anglo-Zenith, Anglo-Worldwide, Anglo-Worldwide.

Dollar Spot Rates

Table with columns: London, New York, Hong Kong, Singapore, Tokyo, Zurich.

Euro \$ Deposits

Table with columns: 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, 12 months.

Gold

Table with columns: Gold (spot), Gold (1000 oz), Gold (1000 oz).

SHIPPING

Table with columns: Ship, Company, Date, Destination.

MINES

Table with columns: Mine, Company, Location, Output.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table with columns: Trust Name, Assets, Liabilities.

INSURANCE

Table with columns: Insurer, Capital, Assets.

PROPERTY

Table with columns: Property Name, Location, Value.

PLANTATIONS

Table with columns: Plantation Name, Location, Area.

MISCELLANEOUS

Table with columns: Item Name, Description, Price.

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Investment and Finance

City Editor Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

City Office 200 Gray's Inn Road London WC1X 8EZ Telephone 01-837 1234

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 707.4 down 8.9 FT Gilt: 79.33 down 0.08 FT All Share: 450.36 down 4.16

Bargains: 17,157 Datastream USM Leaders Index: 99.7 down 0.79 New York Dow Jones Average (latest): 1202.64 up 6.60

Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 9,189.43 down 6.49 Hongkong: Hang Seng Index: 965.94 down 5.14

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE Sterling \$1.4940 down 1/2 cent DM 4.0325 up 0.0025 FF 12.1125 down 0.0175

NEW YORK LATEST

Sterling \$1.4955 Dollar \$2.8932 INTERNATIONAL ECU: 56.4592 SDR: 69.8945

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates: Bank base rates 9 1/2 Finance houses base rate 10 Discount market loans week fixed 9 1/2

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce): am \$414.25 pm \$414.50 close \$414.25-428.50 (\$227.50-278) down \$3.50

TODAY

Interims: Anglo American Gold Investment, Arrow Chemicals, BP, British Vending Industries, Cadbury Schweppes, Cambridge Electronic Industries, Charterhouse Group, Metal Closures Group, Micro Business Systems, Noble and Lund, Finales: Continental Microwave.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

BET Group, Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, WC2 (12.15); The Bristol Evening Post, Temple Way, Bristol (noon); Carico Engineering Group, The George Hotel, Huddersfield (3.00); Christian Salvesen, 50 East Fettes Avenue, Edinburgh (noon); Hales Properties Group, The Belfry Hotel, Wisahaw, Nr. Sutton Coldfield (noon); Kinta-Kellas Rubber Estates 1-4 Great Tower Street, EC3 (noon); Renold, Renold House, Wytherhawe, Manchester (2.30); SalecTV, Churchill Hotel, Portman Square, W1 (11.30); Star Offshore Services, The Baltic Exchange, 14-20 St Mary Axe, EC3 (noon); Sytona, Post House Hotel, Leeds Road, Bramhops, Nr. Leeds (2.30); VTC, The Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, WC2 (10.30).

NOTEBOOK

Babcock International, the process plant and instrument manufacturer, raised interim pretax profit by 70 per cent to £14m. The dividend has been held at 3.4p. The improvement in the American car and furniture businesses and lower interest rates and borrowings helped increase profits. But the value of the order book has shrunk because of the downturn in demand for capital projects.

Industry leaders shed market share as fringe operators slash rates

Major motor insurers lose millions in 'unrealistic' premium price war

By Andrew Cornelius Britain's major insurance companies are losing millions of pounds worth of business in a cut-throat price war over motor premiums.

Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance, Britain's second largest motor insurer, blames competition from fringe motor insurance companies for the loss of more than 60,000 of its clients in the past six months.

The increasingly intense competition follows the 7 per cent rise in premiums announced last October by GRE, which insures more than 1.6 million British motorists. GRE said that fringe insurers, those outside the top 15 companies, were slashing rates by £20 on the average. British motor premium of £100.

In addition, these fringe companies are paying extra commission to insurance brokers in a bid to win business from the large companies.

The loss of business in the six months to June 30 has cost GRE £5m in premium income and means that the company has failed to increase its motor insurance premium income for the first time in memory.

Yesterday GRE said that the new rates being offered by fringe companies are unrealistic.

Problems on the British motor insurance account have been aggravated by the heavy incidence of claims in May and June. GRE reported a 10 per cent rise in motor claims in these months "for no apparent reason".

PRE-TAX PROFITS

Table with 2 columns: Company Name, Profit. Includes General Accident, Guardian Royal Exchange, 1978-1982 data.

General Accident Fire & Life Assurance, Britain's largest motor insurance company, indicated problems on the motor account three weeks ago when it announced interim results for 1983.

In a bid to correct the imbalance on the account premiums were increased by 10 per cent from August 1. At the time Mr Buchan Marshall, chief general manager at General Accident, said the company was taking a lead to try to restore sense to the market, but he conceded that the company would probably lose market share as a result.

Further evidence of the effect which growing competition for motor insurance business is having on industry will emerge today with publication of global returns from the Lloyd's of London insurance market.

The tough competition for motor business was responsible for GRE's British underwriting losses of £122.9m in the six months to June 30 against a loss of £20.7m for the same last year. Premium income rose by 11 per cent to £533m throughout the group, although UK premium income grew modestly from £197m to £200m after problems on the motor side.

Despite the problems group pretax profits were up by 40 per cent to £50m and the board recommended an increase in the interim dividend from 7p to 7.75p.

Mr Peter Dugdale, managing director of GRE, said that although the results are considerably better than the first half of last year they still reflect the difficult trading conditions in major market areas like Britain, the US and Ireland.

The Republic of Ireland was a particularly difficult market, making an underwriting loss of £3.5m against a loss of £2.5m last year. Rates have been held back there by government price controls, GRE said.

The Canadian operation reported much improved results, making a £700,000 profit against last year's £3.9m underwriting loss.

Intervention stops dollar

The dollar rose strongly in European markets again yesterday, propelled by money supply and interest rate worries. But it closed below best levels, although up on the day after a combination of central bank intervention, profit-taking and a smaller than expected rise in leading US economic indicators had trimmed its gains.

The pound slipped below \$1.49 at one stage but recovered to close at \$1.4940. Sterling traded narrowly against European currencies and its trade-weighted value ended unchanged at 85.2.

The dollar's early strength in Europe, after it had risen overnight in the Far East, was attributed to remarks by Mr Malcolm Baldrige, US Commerce Secretary, that interest rates would rise as the economy recovered unless there were cuts in the Federal budget deficit.

At one point, the dollar breached DM2.71 but dealers reported aggressive sales of dollars by the German central bank to protect the mark.

In London the dollar closed at DM 2.7030. The Federal Reserve was again injecting money into the system yesterday (this time with system repurchases. Dealers interpreted this a move to prevent any increase in the key Fed funds rate which was trading firmly yesterday at about 9 1/2 to 9 3/4 per cent.

North Sea oil 'in line for investment'

Indications that the North Sea oil industry is moving into a second stage of development, with plans for multi-million pound investment, are expected to be given today at the World Petroleum Congress in London.

Shell UK is to explain how output from wells can be increased by new, if expensive, technology. A paper to be presented by Mr P. G. Bath, of Shell, and two Dutch colleagues, shows that a gas injection scheme costing £1.40m could result in as much as a further 300m barrels being produced from the Shell-Esso fields.

Gas injection techniques, if applied to all Shell-Esso fields in the North Sea, could result in production being increased by up to over 850 barrels.

With much North Sea gas already earmarked for sale to British Gas Shell suggests that nitrogen or carbon dioxide could be manufactured onshore and piped out to the oilfields. Such a scheme would lead to order worth millions of pounds for the British Steel industry.

The scheme, which has been studied by Shell, would involve two nitrogen producing plants in the North Sea linked by pipeline to the oilfields.

The Norwegian Government has already announced tax changes to encourage a £200m scheme for increasing production. Concentration on enhanced recovery methods comes as oil industry analysts say that there is a detectable change in the atmosphere in the North Sea industry. Signs for the future are increasingly encouraging.

Banks continue talks on Brazilian debt

Brazil's advisory group of banks meets in New York today for more talks on easing the country's acute liquidity problems.

The International Monetary Fund and commercial banks are waiting for confirmation from Brazil that a new letter of intent has been signed, indicating Brazil's acceptance of further tough economic measures demanded by the IMF.

Commercial banks are then expected to agree to release more of a \$4.4bn (£2.9bn) loan to Brazil. So far, \$2.5bn has been disbursed, but further drawings were blocked until Brazil reached an agreement with the IMF.

Because of Brazil's escalating arrears now put at \$2bn, bankers are expected to resist any of the loan without releasing more of the IMF executive board to approve Brazil's programme.

However, further funds for Brazil from the IMF will need executive board approval, which is not expected before late next month at the earliest.

Washington sources stressed that the IMF board would not approve the programme until the Brazilian congress passed new laws limiting pay rises to 80 per cent of the rise in the cost of living.

Commercial banks are continuing work on rescheduling plans for \$18bn of Venezuela's debts, but Venezuela's refusal to bow to an IMF programme until after December elections is likely to delay final agreement and has annoyed many bankers.

Some bankers are expected to oppose extending a 90-day moratorium on payments of principal on public sector debt which expires on September 30.

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Sunlight in Spring Grove battle

A new takeover battle emerged in the laundry sector yesterday when Sunlight Service Group announced a £17.2m competitive takeover offer for troubled Spring Grove, another laundry and textile hire company.

Last month Pritchard Services, industrial cleaners, announced a £16m agreed share bid for Spring Grove. The Sunlight offer puts an effective cash price on Spring shares of 52p against the Pritchard level of just over 45p.

Sunlight which earlier denied interest in bidding for Spring Grove is offering three of its own shares for every 10 Spring against Pritchard offer of seven of its shares for every 20 Spring Grove shares.

The Sunlight offer is dependent on clearance by the Office of Fair Trading which referred it to the Johnson Group to the Monopolies Commission. The Commission blocked it.

A successful merger with Spring Grove would give Sunlight a strong hold on the lined-hire side and use of some of the most modern, but under utilized, plant in the industry.

Mr Roger Nias, Spring's chief executive, and his advisers said they are studying the offer but are unlikely to respond to it until the OFT decision is known, although Sunlight now had the edge.

It lists 10 questions that dealers should ask themselves when they buy gold. These include how the gold is being delivered and whether a quick settlement is being demanded and whether the seller has references.

Mr Walter Shaw, director of Shaw Cavendish, which claims to be the biggest gold coin dealer in Britain, said yesterday: "It is a bit unfair for Customs to expect gold coin traders to take full responsibility for detecting smugglers."

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Germans sentenced over bank fraud

Coloige (AP-DE) - Two former executives of Herstatt Bank were each sentenced yesterday to 29 months in prison and were fined DM45,000 (about £10,700) after being found guilty of aiding and abetting a fraud that led to the collapse of their bank in 1974.

The final sentences in the four-year trial were on Bernhard Graf von der Goltz, Herstatt's former general executive, and Heinz Hedderich, formerly head of the bank's foreign department.

Both men had already spent 16 months in custody, and the court ruled that the rest of their sentences could be suspended against a payment of DM30,000 each.

Herstatt's bankruptcy, the most spectacular in West German post-war banking history, followed the discovery of losses initially estimated at DM1.2bn allegedly caused by unauthorized currency dealings.

In its verdict, the court ruled Goltz, aged 48, and Hedderich, aged 53, had not profited personally from the bankruptcy. It also ruled the men had been cooperative during the trial.

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Smuggled gold warning

Customs and Excise has warned gold bullion and coin dealers that if they buy smuggled gold it will be subject to forfeiture.

The Customs believes that gold, valued at more than £100m has been smuggled into the country since April, 1982, when value-added tax was imposed on the sale of gold coins.

The smugglers either sell the gold directly to a dealer with the 15 per cent VAT element built in, and pocket the tax, or set up a company to deal with the big traders in the London market and then fail to hand over the VAT to Customs. This is known as the "disappearing trader" fraud.

But yesterday, the Customs sent a letter to traders telling them that they will lose out if it can be proved that they have bought smuggled gold. The letter, which was sent to all members of the gold market and to coin dealers listed in the Kruggerands directory, says that: "It is imperative that you satisfy yourself that the gold has not been improperly imported in order to safeguard your own position."

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Mr Walter Shaw, director of Shaw Cavendish, which claims to be the biggest gold coin dealer in Britain, said yesterday: "It is a bit unfair for Customs to expect gold coin traders to take full responsibility for detecting smugglers."

"We have never to my knowledge bought smuggled coin."

It lists 10 questions that dealers should ask themselves when they buy gold. These include how the gold is being delivered and whether a quick settlement is being demanded and whether the seller has references.

Asda profits rise 27%

Associated Dairies, the superstores, fresh foods and furnishings group, jumped well ahead of market expectations with pretax profit up 27 per cent to £77.38m in the year ended last April. Turnover was up just over 16 per cent at £1.5bn.

The consumer spending boom benefited the previously troubled Allied Carpets and Wades furnishing operations. Wades, in particular, showed a big jump in operating profits, up from £82,000 to £1.6m.

In the Asda superstores chain, operating profits rose by nearly a quarter on turnover up by 18 per cent to £1.3bn.

The group is planning a one-for-three scrip issue. A final dividend of 1.75p will make total of 3p.

Investors' notebook, page 16

WALL STREET

Dow up by 7 points

New York (AP - Dow Jones) - Stocks were broadly higher yesterday after overcoming a lower start.

The Dow Jones Industrial average was up 7 points to 1,203. Advancing issues lead declines by an 8-to-5 margin. However, volume was showing little improvement.

Mr Tom Epperson, research director for Howard Weil Labouasse Friedrichs in New Orleans, said that he did not believe that the early rally would last. "The market is still feeling around and a downside break is more likely than an upside move over the next three months."

"We can not get the bull market moving again without some additional correction. Right now even little things can run it up or knock it down."

Sanders Associates was up 1 1/4, at 100 3/4. It declared a 3-for-1 stock split raised the cash payout and announced sharply higher fourth quarter earnings.

International Business Machines was 118 up 1 1/2; NCR 119 3/4, up 2; Teledyne 157 1/4, up 1 1/4; Monsanto 111 7/8, up 2 5/8; General Motors 69 3/4 up 3/4; General Electric 49 7/8, up 1/2; Honeywell 119, up 3/4; and Digital Equipment 101 1/2 up 2 1/4.

Lockheed was up 3/8, at 109; International Paper up 5/8, at 55 5/8; Standard Oil-Ohio up 3/8, at 57 3/8.

City Editor's Comment

Ship of state takes on new helmsmen

Virtually every nationalized industry chairman leaves office a wiser man than when he first agreed to take the poisoned chalice. Most are also sadder - reflecting the fact that running one of the State industries is (like Dr Johnson's view of remarriage) very much a triumph of hope over experience.

Tempting as it is, it is therefore only prudent not to take too rosy or optimistic an attitude to the fact that today marks a significant change in personnel at the helms of several of our key State industries.

Departing are Sir Norman Siddall (coal), Mr Ian MacGregor (steel) and Sir Robert Atkinson (shipbuilders); in their places come Mr MacGregor again (switching to coal), Mr Robert Haslam (steel) and Mr Graham Day (shipbuilders). Soon to follow the exodus from the nationalized industries' chairman's group is Sir Peter Parker at British Rail, although his successor has yet to be named.

The new appointments are critical for several reasons. For a start they mean that this Government has finally got in place the men that it sees as being equipped to carry out the revolution - it is no less - in working habits, efficiency and employment that lies at the heart of the Government's approach to nationalized industries.

Bailouts All three men who are giving up chairman's seats today are popular for one reason or another with ministers. All three are indeed appointees of this Government, and one of them, Mr MacGregor, is only shifting sideways. But there is no disguising the fact that it is not until now that Mrs Thatcher and her colleagues feel that they have finally got the right men into the right seats at the right time.

The first years of the 1979 administration, which resulted in the massive taxpayer's bailouts of British Steel, British Leyland and the National Coal Board, are acknowledged to have been wholly unsuccessful in bringing the State industries to book: indeed they did as much as any other factor to blow the Government off its appointed course.

Recent studies by Whitehall of long-term public spending problems have highlighted the fact that rail and coal in particular are going to remain a heavy drain on public funds until at least 1990. Although in absolute terms, its losses are still minor compared with those of its larger counterparts, British Shipbuilders has emerged as the third most worrying industry. In relative terms its drain on public funds - more than £100m a year - is unacceptably severe.

Climate Much, therefore, rides on the success of the new chairman who take over this month. Compared with four years ago, the climate for steamlining and rationalization is pretty good. The steelworkers' union has been rorted, the shipbuilders are all too clearly on borrowed time, and Mr MacGregor is now everybody's favourite in the inevitable conflict with Mr Scargill over pit jobs that is now looming. The rail unions have yet to be brought to heel.

There is nothing however that will do more to allow these the new chairman to deliver some of the Government's promises than a sustained economic recovery.

There will be rows between the chairman and the Government. There will be disputes over privatization, and how central a role change in ownership per se should have in any long-term plans for the industries. That much is certain. The City, however, will do well to take the smile - or grimace - on the face of these brave appointees as a key indicator to the health of the economy.

Rockware chief named

Mr Frank Davies, former divisional chairman of Alcoa UK, the steel's group, was named yesterday as the new chief executive of Rockware Group, the glassmakers.

He succeeds Mr Jim Craigie, aged 72, who combined the job with chairmanship of the company. That job will now be taken by Sir Peter Parker, British Rail chairman.

Executive management changes will take place at a special shareholders meeting on September 14, called to seek approval of a rescue package, which involved 16 financial institutions putting £10m of ocf finance into the group.

For the 26 weeks to June 26 Rockware lost £8.51m pretax



Group half-year report

SKF Group profit for the first six months of 1983 amounted to 270 million Swedish kronor before exchange differences. Sales rose 9.5 per cent.

Table with 3 columns: Metric, Jan/June 1983, Jan/June 1982. Rows include Sales (MSkr), Operating income before depreciation (MSkr), Income before exchange differences (MSkr), Capital expenditure (MSkr), Average number of employees at work.

The rolling bearing sector's profit margin was affected by the cost of short-time working to impede inventory increases. Steel division profits from March onwards were insufficient to recover appreciable losses during the first two months. For cutting tools and other products the results remained virtually unchanged.

Earnings per Parent Company share were 4.95 kronor as against 7.60 kronor for the corresponding 1982 period, adjusted for the bonus issue.

Aktiebolaget SKF, S-415 50 Göteborg, Sweden.

Crucial aircraft contract awarded to UK and US companies Rediffusion shares £30m MoD order

The Ministry of Defence yesterday placed a crucial order, possibly worth about £30m, with one British and one American company to work together to build four of the world's most advanced crew-training simulators for the Panavia Tornado aircraft.

The contract was awarded to Rediffusion Simulation and Link-Miles, which are strong rivals in the flight simulator business but have worked together since 1977 on six simulators for the low-level strike version of the Tornado. The last two are now being installed at RAF stations in Britain and West Germany.

The new MoD order is for simulators that will train two-man crews for the latest front-line interceptor version of the Tornado, which is replacing such aircraft as the Lightning and the Phantom.

Rediffusion Simulation is part of the capital electronics division of Rediffusion, which is owned by BET. Link-Miles is owned by Singer of the United States.

The crucial nature of the contract cannot be understated, given the poor business in the commercial airline field.

The worldwide market for commercial airline flight simulators, which cut costs by enabling pilots to train on the ground, has fallen sharply.

In 1981 and 1982, total orders from airlines slumped from 25 to just 13, and the rate of decline has continued in 1983.

Rediffusion last year enhanced its tag as a "world-leader" by taking eight orders for machines worth about £5m a time. But that was exactly the same number as it sold in 1981.

Rediffusion may maintain its claim to a 70 per cent stake of all orders this year, but only at the cost of volume. That companies how vital the military market has become.

The MoD and the two companies will not say how much the new contract is worth. The machines, however, are vastly more complex than simulators for, say, jumbo jets. It is "like designing for Star Wars-type machines", a specialist said yesterday.

Rediffusion is working on the front half of the pilot. Link-Miles has "the joystick bar", which teaches the navigator how to handle radar and electronic weaponry.

The British company has, over the past 10 years, significantly increased its share of military work to represent about 40 per cent of sales in 1982. It has had no lay-offs among its 1,500 workforce at Crawley, Sussex - and having increased its profits last year through increased military sales - it knows that it must continue to win military orders throughout the world.

The company is by far the largest part of the Rediffusion capital electronics division, and contributed almost £60m to group turnover of £282m in 1982-83.

The Tornado order is the first of up to six large deals ocf being fiercely bid for around the world.

Cautious report on Irish oil find

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

A new appraisal of offshore oil exploration in the Celtic Sea off the Irish coast by leading analysts has emphasised that speculation of big oil discoveries should be treated with caution.

Wood Mackenzie, the stockbroker, has analysed initial reports from the block being drilled by a consortium headed by Gulf and which includes the Irish company Atlantic Resources.

Speculation that commercially viable oil deposits had been found led to Atlantic Resources shares rising from 30p in March this year to 610p four weeks ago before dropping to nearer 300p.

In its report, Wood Mackenzie says: "At this stage it must be emphasised that reserves are highly uncertain. It is rarely possible on the basis of a single well to understand all the complexities of any oil reservoir."

"Therefore the recent good news should be viewed with caution. Further appraisal work will certainly be required before any decision can be made as to commercial development. In the meantime it may be wise to take a cautious stance on the area."

Wood Mackenzie suggests, however, that if oil is found in commercial quantities, Ireland would provide a welcome tax climate to encourage exploitation of resources to the full.

"From the Government's point of view, the immediate objective is to encourage oil development as far as possible, even if the first development may attract rather more favourable terms than would be offered elsewhere."

"It should also be noted that the tax rules in Ireland need not be regarded as being as inflexible as elsewhere. Where necessary, the Government may be prepared to negotiate with the oil companies, to ensure a mutually satisfactory outcome."

"Thus where the formal structure exists in the legislation, it is quite possible in Ireland that this could be altered depending on individual circumstances. In particular, given the enthusiasm to achieve oil production, it may be that the first field or fields could attract more favourable terms than subsequent developments."

The report also points out that in the relatively shallow waters of the Celtic Sea, development should not prove difficult or expensive.

Stanley back in the black

By Jeremy Warner

A.G. Stanley Holdings Half-year to 6.7.83. Pretax profit £493,000 (loss £171,000). Stated earnings 1.65p (loss 1.1p). Turnover £27.7m (£27.2m). Net interim dividend 20%. Share price 48p up 1p. Yield 3%.

A.G. Stanley, the Fads paint and wallpaper manufacturing and retailing group, returned to the black in the first half of the year.

Pretax profits of £493,000 on sales marginally higher at £27.7m were reported yesterday by Mr Malcolm Stanley, the chairman, against losses of £171,000 during the corresponding period of last year.

The recovery was achieved in spite of much lower profits on the disposal of property. Only £20,000 was realized from this source in the first half of the year against £194,000 previously.

The company said that competition had increased during the last year, but that both sales volume and market share had been maintained.

The company expects to see an upturn in turnover in the autumn.

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK • edited by Michael Prest

Fine tuning helps Asda to 27% rise

Associated Dairies Group Year to 30.4.83. Pretax profit £77.38m (£60.77m). Stated earnings 9.17p (6.53p). Turnover £1,520m (£1,320m). Net final dividend 1.75p mkg 3p (2.32p). Share price 166p Yield 2.58. Dividend payable £3.9.83.

Leeds-based Associated Dairies Group, with its Asda supermarkets, fresh food operation, and carpets and furnishing chains, has turned in results ahead of expectations. A 16 per cent turnover rise helped to generate a 27 per cent increase in pretax profits.

Analysts are now marking up expectations for next time to more than £90m pretax, putting the shares in a fully-valued rating of at least 1.8 times.

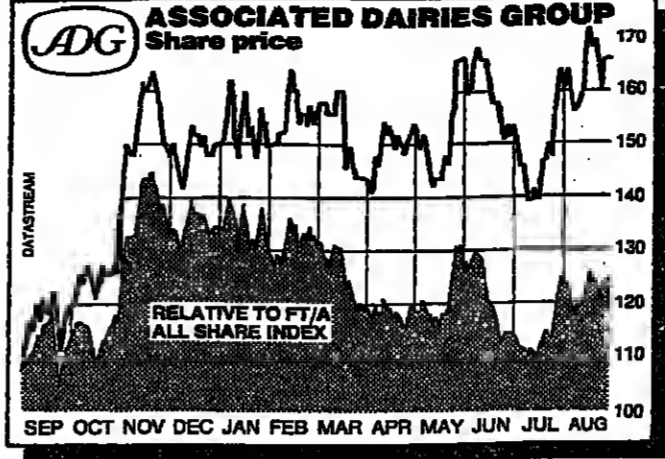
Some improvement from the supermarkets had been expected because gross margins seemed to be improving. But the new policy of fine-tuning stores to local needs, combined with productivity gains, has paid additional dividends. Asda's operating profit up by 24 per cent.

The sharpest turnaround is in the Allied Carpets and Wades furnishing operations, both of which have gained from the rise in consumer spending. But the supermarkets are the heart of the business and this is where competition is still growing. J. Sainsbury has intensified its challenge and Tesco Stores, at number two if the sprawling Co-op is ignored, is not so far behind.

In the package grocery market, Sainsbury holds 15.8 per cent market share, Tesco 14.5 per cent and Asda 8.4 per cent. Asda has moved up in the past few months after stagnating at about 8 per cent, thereby showing how far this index, covering about 40 per cent of the food market, is only a limited indicator of company performance.

Associated Dairies is sitting an £88m in cash (up from £52m last time) so it can afford to press the competition hard, although it is opening only five new stores this year.

A heavy investment in new technology such as electronic point-of-sale equipment seems likely, with the group raising £411m in a £200m rights issue three scrip it looks as if there



could be some diversification, probably into a more profitable area than carpets and furnishings.

But Asda, like Sainsbury and Tesco, must be looking over its shoulder at Mr Jimmy Gulliver now that the Argyl operation has been pulled together an expanded. Argyl has 5.6 per cent of the packaged grocery market if the Presto chain is taken in. Mr Gulliver clearly wants to make more impact than that.

It could be a tight race among the big multiples because the name of the game is new sites for supermarkets and most of them will have been scooped up within a few years.

Western Mining

Western Mining Year to 21.6.83. Consolidated operating profit AS\$377m (AS\$349m). Stated earnings 1.4 cents (2.5 cents). Turnover AS\$368m (AS\$265m). Net final dividend 1 cent. Share price 278p Yield 7.8. Dividend payable 18.11.83.

When the terms of the rumored Western Mining Corporation share placement were disclosed yesterday, howls of anguish could be heard all the way from the City to Collins Street. And with justice.

It is not just that the issue was exclusive to Australian investors, but that the price of AS4.50 was an instantly profitable 20 per cent discount, and that the final results were pretty bad.

It should be said that only a small part of the Australian share issues over the past six months or so have been available to foreigners.

The longstanding policy of the Foreign Investment Review Board to reduce the size of foreign stakes is producing results, and the process has undoubtedly been accelerated by the nationalism of the Labour government.

But that does not justify issuing the stock at a price guaranteed to favour all recipients and participants, especially when the foreign investors, who hold about one third of the company, have shown great loyalty over the years and have probably helped to maintain Western Mining's premium rating.

Excluding foreign investors, who singlehandedly have kept Australia's current account in reasonable shape, may lead in the medium term to a downward re-rating of the company. Yesterday, the share price fell 13p in London after losing in Australia as well.

Part of the decline, however, must be attributed to the results. The key figure is the AS33.2m (£20m) in tax credits, the result of incurring heavy losses on nickel and other operations, but making tax credit profits. Before the tax credit operating losses were AS17m up at AS20.4m.

Good Relations

Good Relations Half-year to June 30. Pretax profit £402,000 (£203,000). Stated earnings 3.5p (1.8p). Turnover £3.2m (£1.7m). Net interim dividend 1.5p. Share price 205p. Dividend payable October 1.

Merchant bankers and other financial advisers are not the only people to have prospered from the recent spate of big takeover battles around the City.

Financial public relations groups are also doing very nicely, as the latest profits from Good Relations show.

True, pretax profits doubled to £402,000 mainly because of the abortive attempt to defeat BTR's bid for Thomas Tilling, but Good Relations should be able to make £750,000 for the year.

Nevertheless, the company has grown increasingly uncomfortable with the Unlisted Securities Market and has sought a full listing. Approval is expected tomorrow and dealings should start on Monday.

Good Relations has been sensitive to criticisms of the way the USM is run and, appropriately, fears that its image will suffer.

It has also realized that for only £26,000, on top of the £76,000 it paid to join the USM, it can obtain a full listing. Others have paid as much as £500,000 for a direct full listing.

If other companies follow Good Relations it may be necessary to re-examine the role and workings of the USM. It certainly does not seem to be in anyone's interest that it should simply be a second rate forum.

Babcock

Babcock International Half-year to 30.6.82. Pretax profit £14.04m (£8.2m). Turnover £476.9m (£488.5m). Net interim dividend 3.4p (3.4p). Share price 184p down 10p Yield 1.9%. Dividend payable 17.10.83.

Babcock International is still benefiting from a costly rationalization of its businesses, which has cut the workforce from 40,000 to 26,000 and reduced group borrowings from £100m to £47.4m over the past two years.

Pretax profits in the six months to June 30 are up by 70 per cent to £14.04m on turnover down by 2 per cent to £476m, reflecting the effects of the rationalization.

China gives new tax concessions

Peking (AFP) - The Chinese are giving new tax advantages for joint venture companies operating in their country in an attempt to attract more foreign investors to the New China News Agency reports.

Proposals were submitted to the permanent committee of the People's Assembly by the deputy finance minister, Mr Li Peng, it said.

The new regulations allow joint companies set up for at least 10 years to obtain exemption initially, and then reduced revenue tax ratings for five years instead of the three applicable so far.

Under legislation on revenue tax adopted in 1980, joint venture firms were exempted from the tax for their first year in which they made a profit. They were then allowed a 50 per cent tax cut for two years.

The news agency gave details on total exemption periods or the period for reduction under the new system.

It said the reform was decided after "repeated inquiries" inside China and in the light of experience in certain South-East Asian countries.

The views of foreign companies interested in investing in China also had been taken into account.

China has about 30 joint venture companies now operating, not counting firms working in the special economic zones.

The Peking Government announced a series of exemptions on joint company taxes last April.

COMMODITIES

Commodity	Unit	Price	Change
LONDON METAL EXCHANGE			
Unofficial price:			
Official turnover figures:			
Price in pence per ton/ounce			
Gold	1000	233.00	
Silver	100	10.00	
Platinum	100	100.00	
Lead	100	10.00	
Zinc	100	10.00	
Nickel	100	10.00	
Copper	100	10.00	
Aluminium	100	10.00	
Iron	100	10.00	
Steel	100	10.00	
Coal	100	10.00	
Oil	100	10.00	
Gas	100	10.00	
Wool	100	10.00	
Silk	100	10.00	
Rubber	100	10.00	
Latex	100	10.00	
Spices	100	10.00	
Grains	100	10.00	
Beans	100	10.00	
Flour	100	10.00	
Sugar	100	10.00	
Cocoa	100	10.00	
Wheat	100	10.00	
Rice	100	10.00	
Maize	100	10.00	
Oats	100	10.00	
Barley	100	10.00	
Hay	100	10.00	
Straw	100	10.00	
Timber	100	10.00	
Softwood	100	10.00	
Hardwood	100	10.00	
Iron Ore	100	10.00	
Coal	100	10.00	
Oil	100	10.00	
Gas	100	10.00	
Electricity	100	10.00	
Water	100	10.00	
Power	100	10.00	
Heat	100	10.00	
Cold	100	10.00	
Climate	100	10.00	
Weather	100	10.00	
Forecast	100	10.00	
Analysis	100	10.00	
Report	100	10.00	
Summary	100	10.00	
Conclusion	100	10.00	
Recommendation	100	10.00	
Disclaimer	100	10.00	
Footnote	100	10.00	
Page	100	10.00	

WALL STREET

Company	Price	Change
IBM	120.00	+0.25
AT&T	45.00	+0.125
GE	35.00	+0.125
Westinghouse	25.00	+0.125
General Electric	35.00	+0.125
Westinghouse Electric	25.00	+0.125
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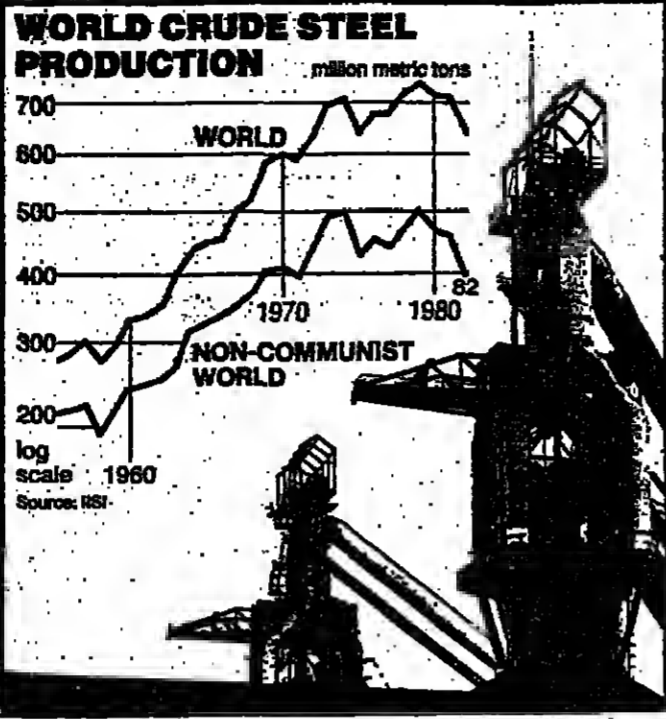
APPOINTMENTS

Shuffle at the top of Thorn EMI

Thorn EMI Mr Dennis Neill, the deputy managing director, will relinquish his executive duties and retire from the board on December 31.

Victims of the world recession - 2: Edward Townsend looks at the steel industry

Rebuilding a slimmer giant from the world scrapheap



World's top twenty steel producers (1982) table listing countries and their production in million metric tons of crude steel.

considerations are bound to be a major constraint on most steel substitutes. Thinking along these lines, it is utterly impossible for me to subscribe to the view voiced by some that the steel industry is on the wane.

The main villains were Opec's two oil price crises

Steel consumption in the US, Japan, West Germany, Britain and France last year was 203 million tonnes, a fall of more than a fifth on the peak year of 1973 and more than four times greater than the decline in activity in those countries' leading steel-making industries.

The authoritative World Steel Dynamics review by the New York stockbroker Paine Webber Mitchell Hinchins blames the big slump on the trend, particularly in the US, towards smaller, lighter and less sturdy cars, continuing losses to other materials (substitution is thought to reduce steel demand normally by 1 per cent a year) the severe lag on capital spending in many countries, and the lack since 1974 of any periods anywhere in the world of above-average economic growth.

Longer term, steel can regain some of its former glory

brokers is forecasting a steel 'shortage' - a period of premium prices for steel on the world export market - in 1986.

Industrial notebook Reports that carry weight at work

The time-honoured journalistic principle of dealing with voluminous official reports - weigh them, skim them but for God's sake don't read them - has nowhere been put to greater test than with the outpourings of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and other independent investigators on the nationalised industries.

Large financial table containing columns for 'Authorized Units & Insurance Funds' and 'Investment Funds', listing various funds and their performance metrics.

GOLF: BALLESTEROS CAN CLOSE GAP AT SUNNINGDALE



Spanish accent: Piñero, Severiano Ballesteros, Calero, Manuel Ballesteros and Garcia watching Larry Nelson driving (Photograph: Ian Stewart).

Two sub-plots in a European story

By John Heaness Golf Correspondent

A number of issues are woven into the fabric of the European open championship, sponsored by Panasonic, at Sunningdale from today until Sunday. The prize fund is the biggest of the European season after the Open...

year. Faldo won £84,210 leads Ballesteros by nearly £20,000 at the moment, but with a man like Ballesteros it might look a slender lead when so many rich pickings are in prospect for the rest of the season...

Aoki's winning 66 on Tuesday because it happens to coincide with a hunch that this could be his tournament. Sunningdale is a superb golf course, a thinking man's course, and therefore suited to one who would have thought to the touch of Oriental magic...

Manuel Piñero is the holder after a breathtaking last round in 1982, but his record this season, with a share of fifth place as the high-water mark, carries no conviction of a successful defence.

Card of course table with columns for Hole, Yds, Par, Hole, Yds, Par. Includes scores for Piñero, Faldo, and Ballesteros.

Prean shows human frailties

From a Special Correspondent, Bridgetown, Barbados

Carl Prean, the 16-year-old from the Isle of Wight often insular, impervious to distraction, showed himself human in the World Cup, sponsored by Three Fives, early yesterday. Prean, who had his second win a row, he beat Robert Earl, the Barbadian-based in New York, 18-21, 21-9, 21-6...

Kim Ki Taek of South Korea, and assumptions like that about the beady eyes, bespectacled and boyish-looking England No 1 have frequently proved superficial. The Swede appeared to have stood at match point against the world No 8 Jan-Ove Waldner, the player against whom Prean had so splendidly saved match point to win on Tuesday.

Another defeat and Waldner could not have qualified. To his credit he avoided that under the greatest possible pressure. The Swede appeared to have saved the match point once when possibility in his group and then that last game could be vital. This, of course, assumes that Prean cannot pull off another major success today against the world No 12 Kim Ki Taek.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Table listing today's fixtures for Cricket, Football, and Rugby Union.

York

Table listing race results for York, including Double 3.10, 4.10, Treble 2.35, 3.40, 4.40.

Salisbury

Table listing race results for Salisbury, including 2.15 TEAL GUARANTEE STAKES.

Worcester

Table listing race results for Worcester, including 2.15 HARLEBUCK HURDLE.

Salisbury selections

Table listing race selections for Salisbury, including 2.15 Eye Dazzler, 2.45 Carocret.

Salisbury selections

Table listing race selections for Salisbury, including 2.15 Eye Dazzler, 2.45 Carocret.

Salisbury selections

Table listing race selections for Salisbury, including 2.15 Eye Dazzler, 2.45 Carocret.

Commercial property/Baron Phillips

The syndicates are back in business

The United States property scene is undergoing a rapid transformation, according to leading agents Coldwell Banker, who believe it has changed from a buyers' to a sellers' market within the last six months.

But, more importantly, this resurgence of the private investor syndicates underlines a more buoyant property market in the US. Over the past two years the market has been plagued by overbuilding which has led to high vacancy rates in many of the country's major office centres.

Manhattan is actually enjoying one of the nation's lowest vacancy rates with only 4.2 per cent of the stock under in the downtown area and 6.2 per cent in midtown.

property market Quillers conclude: "North American property still offers many opportunities to the shrewd and active investor and, given the relatively dull outlook for UK Property, expect British property companies to add to their significant assets in the US and Canada."

The early 1980s building boom is, however, sharply underlined

Coldwell Banker say that new construction of commercial space has virtually halted and there is evidence that demand is now picking up in a number of key US cities. "We would, therefore, expect that equilibrium will be reached within the next two or three years. Astute developers will soon start thinking about selective new construction allowing for a two to three year time lag before completion."

Among the leading cities will be Chicago, Manhattan, and San Francisco have vacancy rates below the national average of 11.7 per cent.

There are still ample openings for UK investors because of the broad range

The brokers say that North American holdings now account for over 7 per cent of property companies' investment portfolios. But the firm recognizes that US and Canada not only attracts the large property development and investment groups, smaller companies looking for growth can also participate in substantial schemes which simply are not available here in the UK.

A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO CONSTRUCT AND DEVELOP A COUNTRY HOTEL OF 30 BEDROOMS

Situated at Milton Keynes, close to M1 interchange J14, this site which extends to approximately 3 acres has planning consent for a hotel with 30 bedrooms etc. It occupies a unique position on an eminence near to the city, yet existing in an overlooking magnificent country to the South.

Advertisement for BRENDONS commercial, featuring contact information and services.

Advertisement for Chamberlain & Willows, Estate Agents, featuring services and contact details.

Advertisement for BRENDONS commercial, featuring contact information and services.

Advertisement for Chamberlain & Willows, Estate Agents, featuring services and contact details.

La crème de la crème also on page 22

Advertisement for SECRETARY, detailing requirements and contact information.

Advertisement for PA/SECRETARY, detailing requirements and contact information.

Advertisement for SALES/PRODUCTION CO-ORDINATOR, detailing requirements and contact information.

Advertisement for LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS SECRETARY, detailing requirements and contact information.

Advertisement for SECRETARY/PA To DIRECTOR, RECRUITMENT AGENCY, detailing requirements and contact information.

Advertisement for ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, detailing requirements and contact information.

Advertisement for AARDVARK SECRETARIAL AGENCY, detailing services and contact information.

Advertisement for OIL c.£8,500, detailing requirements and contact information.

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page, possibly a signature or note.

HORIZONS

The Times Guide to career development Keeping the handshake golden

The angry reaction by Lord, potential bidders for the House of Fraser, to the news that Fraser chairman Professor Roland Smith had negotiated a two-year service contract which increased his salary to £80,000 a year, implied that such an arrangement was close to the controversial American practice of the "golden parachute".

Godfrey Golzen with advice for managers facing redundancy

18 months. Furthermore, although golden handshakes are tax-free to the first £25,000 and liable to a reduced rate on the next £50,000, the compensation in that case is assessed on a net of salary net of tax at ordinary rates.

such as a third to the real value of the salary and this fact ought to be taken into account in assessing the amount of the golden handshake. Ideally, fringe benefits ought to be written into the service contract, though in practice if you are with a company over a period of time, they tend to accumulate informally.

The most permanently damaging aspect of losing your job and the one that is least taken into consideration when assessing compensation, is the loss of pension. It is extremely difficult to transfer from one "contracted out" scheme to another and this generally means that your pension from your present employer is frozen at its current value.

This is one very telling point to put to an employer in your negotiations and in assessing the real value of what you are being offered. It may not be as generous as it looks at first glance and for this reason the general advice is not to accept a severance offer without thinking about its full implications.

NEWSROUND

A controversial campaign launched last month advocates that the black economy should be paid legal, that every adult should be made £5,000 a year regardless of having a job, and that the concept of "earning your living" should be banished forever.

extended to the remainder of Surrey and the directory area of North East Kent during mid-September. People wishing to use the service should call the operator and ask for Freephone 3412.

lighted by the survey is the effective rates of tax and social security in each country. Britain has traditionally been thought a high tax area, but it now appears to have relatively low rates at the different management levels.

Workshuffie is available from Lifeskills Associates, Ashing, Back Church Lane, Adel Leeds, price £12.55.

One other interesting factor highlighted by the survey is the effective rates of tax and social security in each country. Britain has traditionally been thought a high tax area, but it now appears to have relatively low rates at the different management levels.

Job hunters who are persistently failing at the interview stage of their applications will welcome the second revised edition of Martin Higham's book, Coping with Interviews.

The Country Landowners' Association Appointment of REGIONAL SECRETARY, North-West

Country Landowners' Association requires a Regional Secretary for the counties of Cumbria and Lancashire, to take post initially in late November 1983. Candidates below the age of 55, are expected to be of high calibre with sound administrative ability, abundant energy, with some knowledge of farming and country life and a wide interest in public affairs.

Following retirement at the end of the year of the present PRINCIPAL of the ROYAL ACADEMY OF DRAMATIC ART The Council invites applications for a successor

AMERICAN EMBASSY requires a

Trade Centre Specialist (Promotions) to serve as Deputy Director of US International Marketing Centre, responsible for planning and implementing various trade exhibitions.

SKY CONSULTANTS Lillywhites, Piccadilly Circus, require Sky Consultants to sell their excellent merchandise from October 1983 to February 1984.

Chief Executive Oracle Teletext

The Chief Executive of Oracle Teletext Limited, Mr. Geoffrey Hughes, will be retiring at the end of 1983, and we are looking for his replacement.

URGENT Experienced audio-typer with secretarial skills required for busy communications department.

Super Secretaries A career position to £30,000+ bonus for a dynamic, energetic, and highly motivated individual to join our team as a Regional Director.

SALES AND MARKETING APPOINTMENTS

MARKETING EXECUTIVE International security consultancy requires Marketing Executive. Age 30-40. Previous marketing experience, sales and a European language essential.

RECEPTIONIST PROPERTY TO £8,500

A small company in Mayfair with a very pleasant, friendly staff, needs someone to look after its reception office. You'll need a good command of English (M/F). Audio equipment would be preferred.

NON-SECRETARIAL RECEPTIONIST PROPERTY TO £8,500

RECEPTIONIST PROPERTY TO £8,500 A small company in Mayfair with a very pleasant, friendly staff, needs someone to look after its reception office.

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT Central West London Friendly, positive atmosphere in fast developing office for consultant with experience in permanent placement.

ORGANISER/RESEARCHER Required for all party groups of 100's interested in foreign affairs, travel, and international relations.

General Appointments

CJA RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Opportunity for ambitious U.K. Institutional Salesman to switch to, train, visit and succeed in the Far East markets

Academic Director Diplomatic Service Language Centre

The Centre provides in-house tuition in central London in French, German, and Spanish for members of the Diplomatic Service, employing nine full-time lecturers and a pool of part-time tutors.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Chief Executive

West Midlands Industrial Development Association New Appointment £25,000+car

KYNASTON INTERNATIONAL

CHIEF EXECUTIVE BRITISH CERAMIC MANUFACTURERS FEDERATION

As a result of impending retirement, the BCFM, which represents the interests of the ceramic industry, is seeking a Chief Executive accountable to the direct officers.

TECHNICAL EDITOR FRENCH LANGUAGE

We are looking for a technical editor to work with a major multinational company world leader in air conditioning & refrigeration, in a small team at the company's European headquarters in London.

Considering a change of career?

A HIGH INCOME: You will receive £22,000 in your first year with us if you need basic training. Our better benefits mean over £28,000 p.a.

LONGLEAT

A new post is open for a Marketing Officer with wide experience in Public Relations in the Tourism & Leisure Industries.

WHICH CAREER SUITS BEST?

Professional Guidance and Assessment for all ages. 15-24 yrs-Careers, Careers 25-34 yrs-Improvement, Changes 35-44 yrs-Progress, End careers

International Appointments

Sohio

Meet Sohio at the World Petroleum Congress/London August 27 - September 3 and Offshore Europe '83/Aberdeen September 5-9

Petroleum Engineering Supervisors We are seeking senior level Engineers with 6-12 years of broadly based technical experience in production or reservoir engineering, preferably in large fields.

Senior Reservoir Engineers Our current need is for senior level Reservoir Engineers with 5-7 years of technical experience including a background in reservoir simulation.

Senior Production Engineers Senior level Production Engineers qualifying for these positions will have 5-7 years of technical experience including a strong background in the operation and planning of oil field surface facilities.

At Sohio, we are not resting on our past successes. Our search for creativity and excellence goes on as we reinforce our position as a leader in U.S. crude oil production.

Your search leads to Sohio.

APPOINTMENTS JOIN THE WINE TRADE With truly independent search as Drive/Careers, M/F - class based, experienced.

FOOD/DRINKS/FMCG management U.K. vics. General / Prod'n / Technology / Dev't / Sales / Marketing / Purchasing.

LARGE ANTIQUE DEALERS seeks a responsible and determined career person to sell their high quality and interesting merchandise in a prominent position in the antique trade but not essential. Minimum age 25.

JOBS IN THE ALPS - (non-urgent) - responsible and determined career person to sell their high quality and interesting merchandise in a prominent position in the antique trade but not essential. Minimum age 25.

VIDEO COMPANY - in W1 need a sales rep. You will need a good command of English (M/F). Audio equipment would be preferred.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS AND IN MEMORIAM. Births: Announcements published by the name and permanent address of the parents...

DEATHS. THOMAS - On August 29, 1983, at 107, Marlborough Road, London, aged 82 years...

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS. CORFU. Flight only £135. Includes villa (various holidays from 2000 onwards)...

PERSONAL COLUMNS. HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS. LAST MINUTE HOLIDAY BARGAINS. GREEK ISLANDS 2, 3-9...

RENTALS. W10 - Luxury 2 bed flat £285 pw. Near Hyde Park, 200 sq ft...

FLAT SHARING. TWICKENHAM Prof. share for 1983-84. £120 p.w. incl. excl. 698...

Public Appointments. Home Defence College. Tutors. This residential College, set in pleasant rural surroundings...

BIRTHS. BAILEY - On August 30th, 1983, at 11, St. James' Church, London...

MEMORIAL SERVICES. BRICKMAN - A Service of Thanksgiving for the late Frank Brickman...

PILGRIM-AIR. Milan 291, Bologna 299, Rome 321, Athens 315...

RENTALS. KEITH CARDALE GROVES MAYFAIR, W1. Superior 2 bed flat in prime building...

RENTALS. HEART OF LONDON. Superior maisonette to let in Marylebone...

EDUCATIONAL. LAINDOWNE COLLEGE. We are now inviting applications for 1983-84...

Lancashire County Council. An Equal Opportunities Employer. Police Committee. APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT CHIEF CONSTABLE...

MARRIAGES. GOSWELL - On August 29th, 1983, at St. James' Church, London...

IN MEMORIAM. BARON M. In loving memory of a dear son and brother...

TRAVELERS CENTRE. European flights: 01-837 6600. Long distance: 01-837 6601...

RENTALS. SOUTH HAMPSHIRE. Fully fitted 2 bed flat in prime location...

SITUATIONS WANTED. DO YOU NEED A SECRETARY? I am a former secretary...

WINE AND DINE. THE BOULOGNE. Continental Club Restaurant. Specializing in French cuisine...

WILTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL. Chief Executive. A successor to Mr. R. P. Harries C.B.E., D.L., will be required in March, 1984...

DEATHS. ASSELY - On 29th August, 1983, peacefully in her 93rd year...

ANNOUNCEMENTS. ELGAR. St. Bart's Hospital Choir needs young voices to sing in an Edger concert...

GREEK ISLANDS. Every Sunday, 4 Sept. to 11 Oct. £169 to £199...

RENTALS. SUPERIOR FLATS & HOUSES. Fully equipped flat overlooking Thames...

FLAT SHARING. SW9. 2 bed flat with 2nd bathroom. £120 p.w. incl. excl. 698...

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS. THE PIANO WAREHOUSE. 100 top hand made pianos...

SALES CO-ORDINATORS. US International Company. For new product to United Kingdom. 01-828 9577...

DEATHS. COUPLAND - On August 27, 1983, at 10, St. James' Church, London...

ANNOUNCEMENTS. MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE PROGRAM. Adventure, fitness and fun...

UP, UP AND AWAY. Reliable flights and lowest prices to all major European cities...

RENTALS. HOLLAND PARK. Fully furnished 2 bed flat in prime location...

FLAT SHARING. SW15. 2 bed flat with 2nd bathroom. £120 p.w. incl. excl. 698...

LEGAL NOTICES. THE COMPANIES ACT 1983. Notice is hereby given pursuant to section 203 of the Companies Act 1983...

STELLA FISHER. 10 Strand WC2. £8,000 BANKING. Top Calibre P.A. £7,500. £8,000 P.A. PERSONNEL. Experienced Nanny Required Immediately...

DEATHS. GIBSON-MALFRED. On August 30, 1983, peacefully in her 83rd year...

ANNOUNCEMENTS. CHEAP FARES L.A. Far, Mid East, Australia, Africa, Canada, W. India...

RENTALS. KENSINGTON PLACE W8. Light & airy newly dec. furnished 2 bed Victorian flat...

RENTALS. HOLLAND PARK. Sunny sea view full 1st floor flat...

FLAT SHARING. SW15. 2 bed flat with 2nd bathroom. £120 p.w. incl. excl. 698...

LEGAL NOTICES. NOTICE OF ADJUDICATION. Notice is hereby given that I have been appointed administrator of the estate of...

TO ADVERTISE YOUR PROPERTY COSTS ONLY £3.25 per line or £20 per centimetre. Simply complete the coupon below with details of your property...

DEATHS. HUNTINGTON. On August 28th, 1983, at 10, St. James' Church, London...

ANNOUNCEMENTS. HAWAII EXPRESS. FROM LOS ANGELES TO HONOLULU. ONE WAY £105. TEL: 036 4152/3...

RENTALS. HOLLAND PARK. Sunny sea view full 1st floor flat...

RENTALS. HOLLAND PARK. Sunny sea view full 1st floor flat...

FLAT SHARING. SW15. 2 bed flat with 2nd bathroom. £120 p.w. incl. excl. 698...

LEGAL NOTICES. NOTICE OF ADJUDICATION. Notice is hereby given that I have been appointed administrator of the estate of...

TO ADVERTISE YOUR PROPERTY COSTS ONLY £3.25 per line or £20 per centimetre. Simply complete the coupon below with details of your property...

HAWAII EXPRESS. FROM LOS ANGELES TO HONOLULU. ONE WAY £105. TEL: 036 4152/3. HAWAII EXPRESS. It's simply the best.

JOBURG. TORONTO. USA. FAR EAST. Joburg Air Agents. 01-836 5619/5614.

AGSTRALANZ. STONEY. MELBOURNE. BRISBANE. AUCKLAND. AIR FARE TRAVEL INSURANCE. REXHO TRAVEL. 13 New Oxford London SW1E.

ARTHUR ROAD SW19. Unoccupied end of lease located a luxury house in good residential road for 6 months plus, at a rental of £210 pw, negotiable.

NATHAN WILSON. 64 ROSSLYN HILL, HAMPSHIRE. 01-794 1181.

STELLA FISHER. 10 Strand WC2. £8,000 BANKING. Top Calibre P.A. £7,500. £8,000 P.A. PERSONNEL. Experienced Nanny Required Immediately...

TO ADVERTISE YOUR PROPERTY COSTS ONLY £3.25 per line or £20 per centimetre. Simply complete the coupon below with details of your property...

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Davalle

BBC 1

- 5.00 Cee-ee AM: News in brief, and sport, weather and traffic information available to you wherever you have teletext facility or not.
5.30 Breakfast Times with Sue Cook and Frank Bough. Includes news bulletins at 5.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; Farming (between 6.30 and 7.00) Keeping fit (6.45-7.00) Tonight's TV (7.15-7.30) Morning papers (7.32 and 8.32); Breakfast Time doctor (8.30-9.00).

tv-am

- 6.25 Good Morning Britain with Nick Owen and Anne Diamond. Includes news at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30; 8.55; Sport at 8.45, 7.45 and 8.55; Morning papers at 7.00; Competition spot at 7.25 and 8.25; You and Your Money, at 7.50; Guess Who? (with celebrity guest) at 8.05; Tonight's television at 8.35; Chris Tarrant in Rhythm at 8.45; Maddy Lizzie, at 8.55; Rat on the Road with Kevin the Gertbil go to York, at 9.00.

ITV LONDON

- 9.25 Thames news headlines: Followed by Sesame Street with The Muppets, 10.25 Science International: scientific research film: 10.35 Strange Science: 10.45 The Octopus, in his natural environment; 11.00 History of the Motor Car: Post-war upsurge in the European car industry; 11.25 The Farmer Who Rode the Weather: cartoon (7.11.35 Fawcett: South Coast holiday centre (7.11.35)
12.00 Haggerty Haggerty with George Cole: 12.00 Get up and Go! with Beryl Reid: 12.30 The Sullivan: Australian family serial.
1.00 News: 1.20 Thames area news; 1.30 Emeraldale Farm (7.11.35)
2.00 A Plus: Healing and health. Those interviewed included David Harvey, author of the recently published book Healing Power; 2.30 Racing from York: We see the 2.35, 3.10 and 3.40.
4.00 Children's ITV: Haggerty Haggerty (7.11.35) 4.15 Bugs Bunny cartoon: 4.30 Gals: A "Jungle" fun, with Roy Kinnear and Christopher Biggins (7.11.35) 4.45 Home: Australian drama serial; 5.15 Young Doctors Hospital serial.
5.45 News: 6.00 Thames area news.
6.30 What's Wrong Consumers' letters answered: With John McVie.
6.40 Thea's Sport: Live from the European Golf Open. Plus general sports round-up and a preview of the Keith Wallace v Juan Diaz flyweight battle in London tonight.
7.00 I Sleep in the Day: A film about a Gulfport veteran, Joe Murray, now 86, living alone, with his wife, and is determined to retain his independence.
7.10 Film: Harry and Tonto (1974). Comedy, trimmed with drama, about an elderly widower (Art Carney) and his cat, when they are evicted from their New York apartment, start a long trek across the United States. The cast also includes Eliy Bursyn, Larry Dan George, and Chief Hagman. Directed by Paul Mazursky.
7.30 Thea's Sport: Live from the European Golf Open. Plus general sports round-up and a preview of the Keith Wallace v Juan Diaz flyweight battle in London tonight.
7.40 Film: The Ghost of Flight 401 (1977) Made-for-TV thriller about a pilot's haunting experience after his jumbo jet crashes in the Florida Everglades. Apparently based on fact. With Ernest Borgnine, Gary Lockwood and Kim Besinger.
9.30 European Connections: France. Stasbourg - Jean Paire. A film about a Cheshire-born woman, now lecturing in English at the University of Stasbourg, in Alsace, and married to a Frenchman. In addition to reconciling British and French cultures, she has to cope with the traditions and customs of Alsace, which has its own language.
10.00 News, And Times news headlines.
10.30 What's Wrong: Presenters: incident at: 10.30 (1983). Modesty made British thriller about a drug addict and former surgeon (Marrin Miller) who, while waiting in an all-night chemist's shop, recognises a former need (Anton Diffring). Also starring William Sylvester. Directed by Norman Harrison.
12.25 Night Thoughts with the Rev Bill Todd. His theme is Second Sight.

BBC 2

- 6.05 Open University (ends at 8.10) Maths: 6.30 Conflict in the Family: 6.55 Social Prescriptions: 7.20 Meaning of Madness; 7.45 Classical Greece: social life.
10.30 Play School: same as BBC 1. 4.20: Clossdown at 10.55.
5.10 Resources for Learning: Open University film about Avon teachers who have to cope with classes made up of pupils of widely differing abilities.
5.40 F.A.C.T.S.: Third film in this series showing how amateur footballers can improve their game. Today: shooting. With Kevin Keegan, Terry Venables, and other experts (7.11.35)
6.05 Distant Game: Penultimate film in this series about Britain in uniform. Tonight, the story of HMS Amethyst, the British frigate that made a famous dash for freedom up the Yangtze river when China was in the grip of civil war in 1949 (7.11.35)
6.25 News with sub-titles.
7.00 Open Spaces: Community Programme Unit film called Dudding the Rocks - a Social Worker's Life. Filmed in South Wales (see Choice).
7.30 Cameo: The wildlife, and natural beauty of Dartmoor, photographed by Ronald Eastman.
7.40 Wheels of First Year: Maybe - A First episode of this film series about India. Today, tonight, a land reform project in West Bengal, one of the few such projects in the country. We see its effects on the lives of landless labourers and share-croppers and their families.
8.10 Film: Harry and Tonto (1974). Comedy, trimmed with drama, about an elderly widower (Art Carney) and his cat, when they are evicted from their New York apartment, start a long trek across the United States. The cast also includes Eliy Bursyn, Larry Dan George, and Chief Hagman. Directed by Paul Mazursky.
10.00 Edinburgh International Festival: A big show, from Princess Street Gardens. A fireworks display provides the visual climax to the Scottish Chamber Orchestra's performance of Handel's Music for the Royal Fireworks. The concert opens with the Trumpeters of the Royal Scots playing Trevor Sharpe's Fairies for the Festival. Nick Ross presents the programme.
10.30 Sing Country: Highlights of last Easter's International Festival of Country Music at Watbury Arena. Entertainers include Linda Cassidy, The Burrito Brothers, Billy Walker and Billie Jo Spears.
11.00 Newsnight.
11.50 Open University: Images (seeing with sound); 12.15 The Public Inquiry (the M40 extension between Oxford and Warwick). Ends at 12.45.

CHANNEL 4

- 6.50 People's Court: American-made film about a studio trial, heard by referee Judge (Joseph A. Warner), who rules in the cases of the sawn-off shade tree and the fraternity fight fiasco. The cases are heard by referee Judge (Joseph A. Warner), who rules in the cases of the sawn-off shade tree and the fraternity fight fiasco. The cases are heard by referee Judge (Joseph A. Warner), who rules in the cases of the sawn-off shade tree and the fraternity fight fiasco.
6.00 Bewitched: Comedy series about a pretty sorceress (Elizabeth Montgomery) with a humdrum husband (Dick York). Tonight, she decides it is time to stop helping a neighbour's young son to gain some confidence on the baseball field and let him cope on his own.
6.30 Gardens' Calendar: The actress Hannea Gordon and experts at the Royal Horticultural Society's garden at Wisley, discuss basic tasks for September including tying up raspberry bushes and planting bulbs for flowering next spring. Plus hints on taking the backshots out of digging.
7.00 Channel Four News with news headlines at 7.30, and business news at 7.35.
7.50 Comment with Sir Roy Shaw, former Secretary-General of the Arts Council.
8.00 Doctors: An account of a woman doctor's campaign to prevent the serious illnesses that have plagued the Ayman Indians who live at high altitudes in Bolivia. Her name is Ruth Tschauer.
8.00 Soep: Lyrical entertainment featuring the Tate and Campbell families. Tonight, there is much consternation in the courtroom at Jessica's behaviour on the first day of her trial. Judge Elaine decides to marry Danny.
8.30 Out: Penultimate episode in this drama series starring Tom Bell as Frank Ross, out of jail after eight years, and seeking the man who "gassed" him. A woman (Margaret Sherrin) comes down to London from the north to contribute some ideas on how to dispose of Ross. With Katherine Schofield.
10.30 An Evening for Nicaragua: Highlights of a benefit variety in aid of the Nicaraguan programmes being carried out in Nicaragua, given earlier this year in London. Appearing are stars and performers such as Julia Christie, Charlotte Cornwell, The Johnson Brothers, the Rasta Poet/comedian Benjamin Zephaniah (the subject of a recent Channel 4 documentary), Poodlesandburger, the young comedians, Ian Dury and Saunders, Rik Mayall, Emma Thompson and Ben Affler, and the singer Charlie Dore. The Richards, soon to be seen on Channel 4 in Accidents in the Heart of an Anarchist. The company is Andy de la Tour.
11.30 What the Papers Say: with Stephen Pile of The Sunday Times. Ends at 11.45.

CHOICE

- author's files for any three successive days and the odds are that, with slight variations, the case history will be precisely those we learn about in the novel. The elderly, confined to their homes, the elderly found wandering on local beaches at night; the youngsters who seek the social worker as "the evil guy" who is about to take them away from their mothers and fathers back with them. And - not at the everyday level - the front doors that open to reveal a horse, or a man with a raised axe. At last, a portrait of the social worker as a man who has to be all things to all men/women/children.
SECRET'S (BBC1, 10.40pm) is both an example of BBC-originated campaigning journalism and the next best thing, a ravaging of someone else's. It makes no secret of this, and Panorama and The Guardian duly take their bow in the second half of tonight's double bill which deals with a report on alcohol and health, prepared by the Government's "think-tank" in 1978 and kept deep-freeze by Whitehall ever since though available in local libraries thanks to the tank's springing a leak. Official files remain sealed, however, in tonight's other story, that of a giant chemical plant in Yorkshire and of the farmer's couple with an uninterrupted view of its belching chimneys who, perforce, have become amateur graduates in pollution, complete with expensive equipment and log-books, because the local council refuses to talk. Presenter-interviewer Ed Boyle emits detectable high levels of irony.

Radio 4

- 6.00 News Briefing.
6.10 Farming Today. 6.45 Prayer for Peace. 7.00 News. 7.15, 7.30, 8.00 Today's News. 7.25, 8.25 Sport. 8.30, 7.30, 8.30 News Summary. 7.45 Thought for the Day.
8.45 Domestic Manners of the Americans by Fanny Trollope. 9.00 News. Checkpoint. Roger Cook investigates letters' problems of '60s and '70s.
9.30 The Living World.
9.30 News. Revised Harry's Musical Encounters with guest Anthony Burgess.
10.30 Meeting Henry: 'Bum Out' by Pat Burchard. Read by June Barrie.
10.45 Daily Service.
11.00 News. Travel: With Great Pleasure. News and Edna Healey presents their own personal choice of poetry and prose. The reader: Norman Rowley (7.11.35)
11.48 Enquire Within: With Neil Landwin.
12.00 News. You and Yours.
12.12 The Sunday Review: Reasonably Together Again (new series). The first of six entertainment programmes.
12.55 Weather: Programme news.
1.00 The World At One: News.
1.40 The Archers. 1.55 Shipping.
2.00 News. Woman's Hour, including 4.20 News. 6.00-6.45 The Sunday Review: Reasonably Together Again (new series). The first of six entertainment programmes.
12.55 Weather: Programme news.
1.00 The World At One: News.
1.40 The Archers. 1.55 Shipping.
2.00 News. Woman's Hour, including 4.20 News. 6.00-6.45 The Sunday Review: Reasonably Together Again (new series). The first of six entertainment programmes.

TONIGHT'S PROM

- 7.30 Beethoven, Piano Concerto No 5 E flat major (The Emperor), Soloist: Emanuel Ax.
8.30 Beethoven: Symphony fantasia - London Symphony Orchestra, under Claudio Abbado, Radio 3 Stereo.
9.05 The Week's Composer: Beethoven, Alfred Brendel plays the Piano Sonata in G minor, Op 13 (Pathetic), and joins the Beaux Arts Trio for the Piano Trio in G, Op 1, No 2. Records: City of London Sinfonia: Concerto Grosso in C minor, Op 6, No 3, Vivaldi (oboe and orch. Simon Standage, violin).
10.00 Edinburgh International Festival 83: Cherkassky plays Bach (Chaconne in D minor), Beethoven (Sonata in B flat, Op 27, No 1) and Chopin (Variations on a theme of Paganini: Book 2). Part one. Just One More Time: John Francoeur makes John Cheever's story.
11.50 Edinburgh Festival: part two. Sorabji (Sonata No 4) and Berg (Sonata Op 1).
1.00 News.
1.05 Four Saints in Three Acts: Virgil Thomson's opera (with libretto by Gertrude Stein) is sung in English, and performed by the Chorus and Orchestra of the City of London Sinfonia. Alan, Clamma Dale and William Brown; at 2.15 and act 3 at 4.22. With vocal readings in French. Records: 3.00 Coffee and Drama: Anthony Vines presents part two of his complete set of words and music from life and literature in early 20th century Vienna. Music by Richard Strauss. Recorded at Edinburgh International Festival. Today: 1918-1925.
4.00 Shostakovich: South West German Radio Symphony Orchestra play the Symph No 10.1
4.55 News.
5.00 The Piano: Pleasure: Roger Nichols's selection includes works by Rachmaninov, Elgar, Poulenc, Lalo and Frank Bridge (Two Poems, Edvard Grieg).
6.30 Bandstand: Works by Robert Childs, Gareth Walker, Deryn Harcourt and Joseph Horowitz (Euphonium Concerto) played by the National Youth Brass Band of Wales.
7.00 Piano Sonata: Philip Mead plays the G (H XVI) and the C (H XVI).
7.30 Proms 83: From the Royal Albert Hall, Part one - Beethoven (see panel for fuller details).
8.10 Jeremy Irons as Byng at Large: Part one - Beethoven's posthumous diary of the Hon John Byng (7.11.35)
8.30 Proms 83: part two. Beethoven's Piano Sonata in G major, Op 10, No 3.
8.05 Morning Concert: part two. Fauré (No 1), Debussy (Fandango in D minor - Rafael Payare, harpichord). Deryn Harcourt (Sinfonia concertante in D). D. B. Payne (Suite, The Sea). Records.
9.00 News.

Radio 2

- News on the hour every hour (except 8.00pm and 9.00). Major Bulletins: 7.00am, 8.00, 1.00pm and 5.00 (MTWTF). 9.00am, 10.00am, 11.00am, 12.00pm, 1.00pm, 2.00pm, 3.00pm, 4.00pm, 5.00pm, 6.00pm, 7.00pm, 8.00pm, 9.00pm, 10.00pm, 11.00pm, 12.00am.
News on the hour every hour (except 8.00pm and 9.00). Major Bulletins: 7.00am, 8.00, 1.00pm and 5.00 (MTWTF). 9.00am, 10.00am, 11.00am, 12.00pm, 1.00pm, 2.00pm, 3.00pm, 4.00pm, 5.00pm, 6.00pm, 7.00pm, 8.00pm, 9.00pm, 10.00pm, 11.00pm, 12.00am.
News on the hour every hour (except 8.00pm and 9.00). Major Bulletins: 7.00am, 8.00, 1.00pm and 5.00 (MTWTF). 9.00am, 10.00am, 11.00am, 12.00pm, 1.00pm, 2.00pm, 3.00pm, 4.00pm, 5.00pm, 6.00pm, 7.00pm, 8.00pm, 9.00pm, 10.00pm, 11.00pm, 12.00am.

Radio 1

- News on the half-hour from 6.30am until 8.30am and then 10.00 and 12.00 midnight (MTWTF). 8.00am Adrian John. 7.30 News. 8.00 Simon Bates. 11.00 Steve Wright. 12.00 Music With Wally. 12.30 John Craven including 2.00 Sports Desk. 2.30 Eastward including 3.00 Sports Desk. 4.00 David Hamilton including 4.05, 5.30 Sports Desk. 6.00 John Dunn including 6.45 Sports and Classified Results (medium wave only). 7.30 Cricket Desk. 7.30 Marching and Waiting (new series). 8.30 Country Club with Wally Whyton. 9.30 Sport. 1.00am, 1.30am, 2.00am, 2.30am, 3.00am, 3.30am, 4.00am, 4.30am, 5.00am, 5.30am, 6.00am, 6.30am, 7.00am, 7.30am, 8.00am, 8.30am, 9.00am, 9.30am, 10.00am, 10.30am, 11.00am, 11.30am, 12.00am.

WORLD SERVICE

- 6.00 Newsweek. 6.30 News. 6.45 The Farming World. 7.00 World News. 7.28 News. 7.30 News. 7.45 News. 8.00 News. 8.15 News. 8.30 News. 8.45 News. 9.00 News. 9.15 News. 9.30 News. 9.45 News. 10.00 News. 10.15 News. 10.30 News. 10.45 News. 11.00 News. 11.15 News. 11.30 News. 11.45 News. 12.00 News. 12.15 News. 12.30 News. 12.45 News. 1.00 News. 1.15 News. 1.30 News. 1.45 News. 2.00 News. 2.15 News. 2.30 News. 2.45 News. 3.00 News. 3.15 News. 3.30 News. 3.45 News. 4.00 News. 4.15 News. 4.30 News. 4.45 News. 5.00 News. 5.15 News. 5.30 News. 5.45 News. 6.00 News. 6.15 News. 6.30 News. 6.45 News. 7.00 News. 7.15 News. 7.30 News. 7.45 News. 8.00 News. 8.15 News. 8.30 News. 8.45 News. 9.00 News. 9.15 News. 9.30 News. 9.45 News. 10.00 News. 10.15 News. 10.30 News. 10.45 News. 11.00 News. 11.15 News. 11.30 News. 11.45 News. 12.00 News. 12.15 News. 12.30 News. 12.45 News. 1.00 News. 1.15 News. 1.30 News. 1.45 News. 2.00 News. 2.15 News. 2.30 News. 2.45 News. 3.00 News. 3.15 News. 3.30 News. 3.45 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Day to apologize to Foot over confidence slip

Sir Robin Day, the broadcaster, said last night that he was writing to Mr Michael Foot to apologize for breaking a confidence in a sudden outburst during a debate with Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Livingston, at the Edinburgh International television festival.

Sir Robin said that Mr Foot had told him he believed Mrs Thatcher had no alternative to sinking the Argentine battleship, the Belgrano.

The admission stunned the audience of broadcasters and journalists, which included Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, Mr Roy Hattersley, and Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Transport, as chief guests.

Mr Hattersley immediately asked Sir Robin where and when Mr Foot had made the remark, and if it was made in private. Sir Robin said that it was and Mr Hattersley retorted: "I won't have a private conversation with you again".

The broadcaster replied: "I knew we would get through the afternoon without you making a cheap remark."

Mr Dalyell had asked during the festival debate on television's general election coverage why he had not questioned Mrs Thatcher on the sinking of the Belgrano. Sir Robin said that both he and television editors did not think that the sinking was an election issue.

When Mr Dalyell took up the subject again, Sir Robin rounded on him and shouted: "Mr Foot did not think that Mrs Thatcher had any alternative to sinking the Belgrano. He said it was not an election issue, and that he did not want to talk about it when I interviewed him."

As Mr Hattersley left the debate early to catch a train to another function he said that Sir Robin's remark had been a breach of confidence.

Sir Robin said afterwards: "I gave an honest answer because Tam Dalyell was being very provocative."

Later he added: "I am sorry that during the cut and thrust of a lively professional argument about television election coverage I disclosed the gist of what Mr Michael Foot had said privately to me some months ago about the sinking of the Belgrano."

"I am writing to Mr Foot to apologize for this disclosure, and to explain it was made only in the heat of the moment in answer to a challenge from Mr Tam Dalyell."

Mr King and Clements, one of the Labour leader's aides, said last night: "Michael Foot is away on holiday. He is not contactable at the moment."

During the election campaign, Mr Neil Kinnock, the favourite candidate to succeed Mr Foot, called for a full-scale investigation into the sinking of the Belgrano. But it was noted at the time that when the demand was put to Mr Foot, at Labour's campaign press conference on June 2, he refused to answer Mr Kinnock's view.

Earlier in the debate, Mr Hattersley said that the Labour Party had lost the general election because of its own failings, not because it was the victim of antagonistic newspapers and television companies.

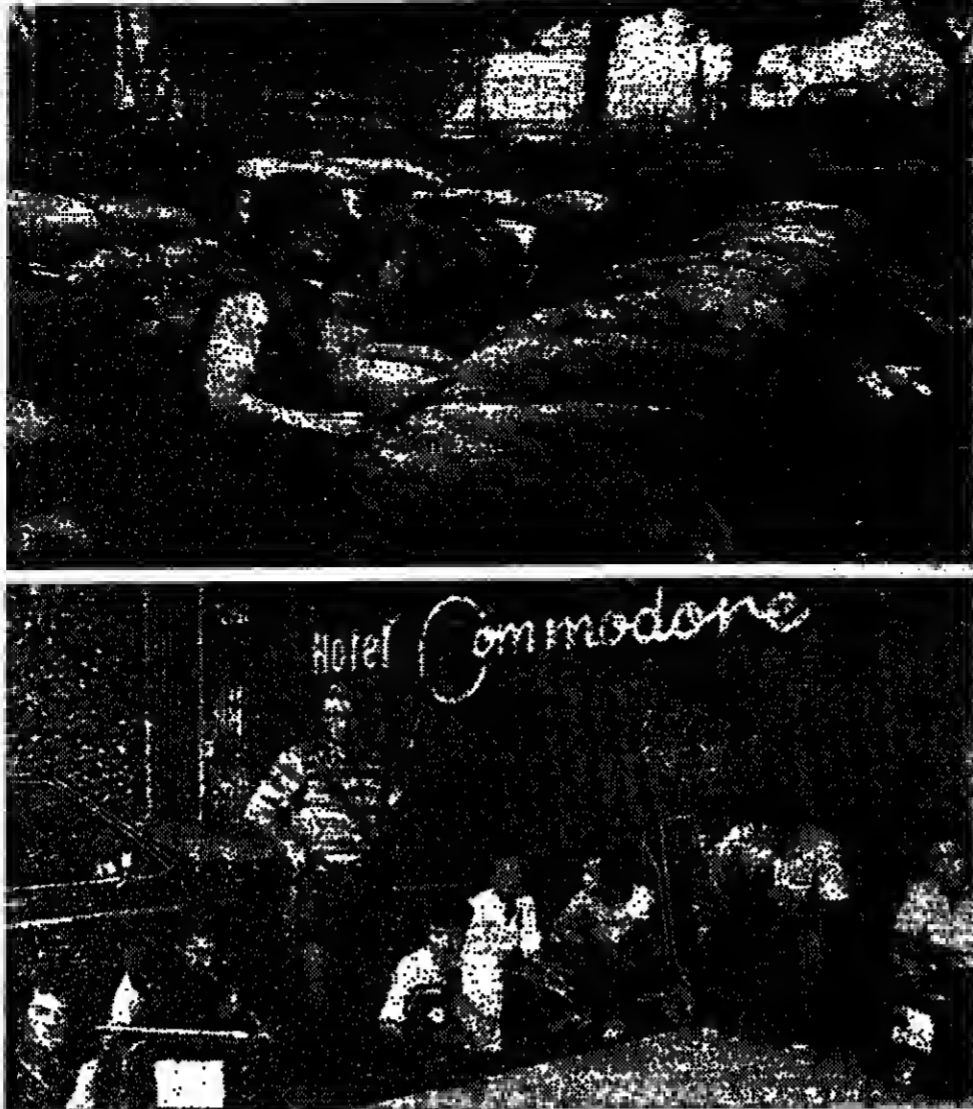
"This election was determined before the first television camera moved into the first press conference," he said.

All that the media could do was to magnify features which were already established by the parties, he said. "We lost the general election for the Labour Party."

"The election was determined before the first television camera moved into the first press conference," he said.

Whether at this late stage his words will be respected can only be a matter of conjecture. But with the Lebanese Army still unable to control even their own capital, their chances of being able to advance into the Chouf mountains and pacify the Druze militias there now appear to be almost non-existent.

Israeli troops had already begun their withdrawal from the hills, pulling out positions around the town of Aley when the Israelis briefly suspended their withdrawal at America's request. How



Front-line Beirut: US Marines in a fox hole and TV crews trapped in an hotel with, right, Lebanese troops loading a helicopter with arms

Lebanon drifts to civil war

Continued from page 1

One of the few respected Muslim elder statesmen in the country - he represented Lebanon in talks with President Reagan earlier this year - condemned the Muslim militias and stood up for the Government.

Beirut itself is now in a state of near civil war and Mr Gemayel must be wondering how long he can remain president of a country whose capital he can only control by sending his troops into action against Muslim militias. The multinational force is now under fire every day - a barrage of 155 millimetre shells, probably fired from Syrian-controlled areas, yesterday landed in the Italian army's logistics compound, wounding four Italian soldiers - and Mr Gemayel will soon have to decide whether to increase the number of US marines here or abandon Mr Gemayel altogether.

The next few days - some would say the next forty-eight hours - are likely to prove whether Lebanon is to survive as a state.

Fisk's sign-off message read: Lebanese Army has now passed the office here but snipers still around. Will try and update during evening but things very difficult and cannot even cross road outside at present. Bombardment now over, though.

Counting the cost, page 7



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Greek anger at 'damage' to Marbles

From Mario Modiano Athens

A leading Greek conservation expert has accused the British Museum of causing irreversible damage to the statue of the caryatid from the Elgin collection by coating it with plastic film.

Dr Theodore Skoulikidis, professor of Physical Chemistry at the Athens Polytechnic, who is on the Acropolis conservation committee, said that he had a letter from Dr David Wilson, Director of the British Museum, admitting that he had covered the caryatid with a "water-soluble polymer" to protect it from decay.

"It has been established," said Professor Skoulikidis, "that the coating of ancient marbles with plastic is dangerous and speeds up rather than arrests decay. The British Museum is already having problems with the caryatid."

Thousands of gas jobs to go

Continued from page 1

coordinated nationally... To this end national redundancy terms are being improved", it said.

Mr Michael Meacher, the Labour MP who is standing for the party's deputy leadership, described the omissions as a serious breach of the public.

"My information in what purports to be a full, honest report is being withheld," he told the magazine.

A table also omitted from the report shows that 1,080 jobs were expected to be shed by 1987, but the magazine makes clear that these have already been superseded by new plans to shed at least 7,000 jobs in the next four years.

Senior executives at the corporation confirm that it plans to reduce its manpower well below 90,000 by 1990.

Industrial notebook, page 17

Zimbabwe officers freed, then rearrested

Continued from page 1

Air Vice-Marshal Statter, his arm around his wife Jane, who is recovering from a car accident, was asked if the officers would remain in Zimbabwe. "That will have to depend on our families and the Prime Minister," he replied.

After about 15 minutes the officers were asked by officials to leave the airport and then warrants of liberation and were conducted to an office block. There they were instead handed new detention orders.

As word spread among the crowds outside the reaction was first shock and then anger. "Was it all for?" asked one man bitterly. Shouts of "shame" followed the officers down to the cells.

It was the fourth trial this year in which a total of nine white and six black accused by have been acquitted and released on Dr Ushewokuzze's orders.

The latest case will be regarded with particular seriousness in Whitehall as Air Commodore Pile, Wing Commander Cox, Air Lieutenant Lloyd and Air Lieutenant Weir have dual British and Zimbabwean nationality.

British response: News of the rearrest of the six men brought a swift response in Whitehall when the Foreign Office immediately instructed the British High Commission in Harare to "clarify the position urgently". Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent writes.

A spokesman said in an unusually strongly worded statement: "We welcome the fact that the judge found all the accused not guilty. We are very disturbed by news of their re-detention."

Parents' agency: The Stanhope parents of one of the men acquitted of treason in Zimbabwe planned to celebrate last night before the learned of the new detention order.

Mrs Barbara Cox said she and her husband, the Rev William Cox, aged 68, had been going through agony during the year since their son, Wing Commander John Cox, aged 37, was arrested. Mrs Cox, of Fishponds, Bristol, said: "The verdict is an answer to our prayers. My husband has been weeping tears of joy."

"We were expecting him to be acquitted. We know he is innocent, but in a country like that you never know what can happen."

"I think they will hold him for a while but I'm sure they will eventually release him. After all he has been proved innocent."

Racial overtones, page 17

David Steel back on duty

Mr David Steel the Liberal leader returned to duty yesterday for the first time since the start of his 10 weeks sabbatical.

He appeared in a debate on television coverage of the General Election. "I am feeling fantastic and looking forward to coming back. I am enjoying the rest. I would recommend it to anybody. It makes a lot of sense after seven years as leader to take a break."

Mr Steel, who was said by his doctor to be suffering from a virus infection, said he would get make any political statements before the Liberal assembly at Harrogate on September 19. He appeared

confident and at ease throughout the engagement, part of the Edinburgh Television Festival.

He said he had accepted the invitation to appear as a panellist with Mr Roy Hattersley and Mr Tom King, Transport Secretary, to discuss the election because it was not a political occasion.

"If I had been asked, for example, to appear on Panorama with Mr Hattersley and Mr King, the answer would have been negative."

He said that at no time during his break had he been tempted to answer criticisms of his leadership from factions within the party.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

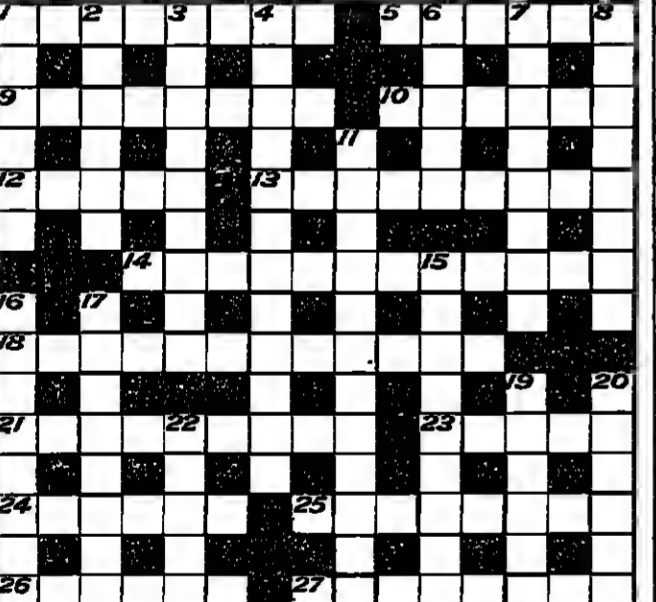
- Music**
- Music from the Praise Singers, Ivory Coast, The Royal Scottish Museum, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, 12.
 - The Glenlivet Fireworks Concert, with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh, 10pm.
 - Recital by Tessa Ballard (oboe)
- and Tony Gray (piano), St Mary's Centre, Aylesbury, Bucks, 1.10.**
- Concert by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Newcastle City Hall, Newcastle, 8.

Recital by John Shirley-Quirk with Sarah Watkins (oboe) and Martin Isopp (piano), Simon Place Heritage Trust, Sutton Place, nr Guildford, Surrey, 7.30.

Concert by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, St David's Hall, Cardiff, 7.30

The Times Crossword Puzzle No. 16,223

Collins Dictionaries Times Crossword Championship 1983
The National Final takes place next Sunday, 1.30 - 5.30 p.m. at the Park Lane Hotel. Admission fee £2 a head.



- ACROSS**
- Woolen headgear a danger in plant (8).
 - Poured insults on America in retirement (6).
 - Sort of bodily harm alleged against man in charge (8).
 - Ballerina deserted by a physiologist (6).
 - Revolver for chopper (5).
 - Like US Defense HQ getting 20% increase? (9).
 - Go in to court in brutal treatment of questionmaster (12).
 - Rescue about fifty clubs from harsh employers (5-7).
 - Lama radio operators go to town in Herts (9).
 - Oriental looks like a Scotsman (5).
 - With learned cleric brought in man of action is seen to tremble (6).
 - Offering effective consumer resistance (8).
 - Swift flying resort of gullible flyers (6).
 - Washed up to seawater an early Welsh urban settlement? (8).
- DOWN**
- Poet upset at evidence of carnage (6).
 - Half life of Man's turnover yet to be worked out (6).
 - Paul talks bearing oo church in Bow (9).
 - Isolated part of state dependent on Falklands (5-7).
 - Post-plant gets sound report (5).
 - The quality of Athenian wit? (8).
 - Eamon read out a farewell utterance in it (2,6).
 - Further two states join New Zealand - a show of eccentricity (12).
 - Country to east in French department is flower-bedecked (9).
 - Deal with shop producing heavenly plant hybrid (8).
 - Brought to a higher degree of readiness for the race? (6,2).
 - Cointainer for what Christopher shop? (6).
 - Fashionable bird? Shut up! (6).
 - River as council site (5).
 - Solution of Puzzle No 16,222

New books - paperback

- The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:
- A Bridge of People, a Personal View of Oaxaca's First Forty Years, by Ben Whitaker (Heinemann, £4.95)
 - Dante the Maker, by William Anderson (F Hutchinson, £7.95)
 - Pauline & English Palladianism, by Rudolf Wittkower (Thames & Hudson, £7.95)
 - Pink Triangle and Yellow Star, and other essays, by Gore Vidal (Granada, £1.95)
 - The Arms Race, by Michael Sheehan (Martin Robertson, £3.95)
 - The Corn King and the Spring Queen, by Naomi Mitchison (Virago, £4.95)
 - The Essential Rebecca West (Penguin, £4.95)
 - The Great Wine Book, by Janis Robinson (Sidgwick & Jackson, £8.95)
 - The Megalithic Monuments of Western Europe, edited by Colin Renfrew (Thames & Hudson, £4.95)
 - The Miller's Dance, by Winston Graham (Fountain, £1.95)

The papers

The Washington Post said that Mr Begin was wrong in working hard to sidetrack President Reagan's plan, exactly a year ago, for a negotiated West Bank peace. It said: "Mr Begin's successor will have to reason to question the strength and passion of his commitment to the security of the Jewish state or the fact that he did have some notable achievements in pursuing that security. What that successor should ponder is whether the Begin policy has not by now accomplished everything of usefulness it possibly can and has now turned on its head and whether it is not time for a change not just of people but of policy as well."

Why is London Transport threatening to sack its only well-known employee, Mr Chris Hughes, the winner of Mastermind Inter-Continental the Daily Mirror said. The paper points out that Mr Hughes has an encyclopaedic memory and is now open to offers of work "So anyone who needs an Underground train driver who knows when the Thirty Years War ended should get in touch with him immediately. Otherwise the brainy Mr Hughes may face the hardest question one that has already stumped four million people: "Where can I get a job?"

The pound

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	1.76	1.68
Austria Sch	25.20	27.00
Belgium Fr	84.00	89.00
Canada \$	1.50	1.52
Denmark Kr	15.02	14.32
Finland Mkk	8.92	8.52
France Fr	12.51	11.96
Germany DM	4.17	3.97
Greece Dr	149.00	137.00
Hongkong \$	11.60	11.00
Ireland Pt	1.52	1.26
Italy Lira	2085.00	2365.00
Japan Yen	384.00	366.00
Netherlands Gld	4.67	4.45
Norway Kr	11.63	11.86
Portugal Esc	189.50	181.50
South Africa Rd	2.00	1.85
Spain Ptas	233.75	222.75
Sweden Kr	12.30	11.70
Switzerland Fr	3.20	3.22
USA \$	1.53	1.48
Yugoslavia Dar	202.00	175.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 336.5 London: The FT Index closed down 8.9 at 707.4.

Weather forecast

A frontal trough lying over W Britain will clear slowly E

6 am to midnight

London, SE, E England, East Angles: Misty at first; outbreaks of rain, becoming more persistent than they are later; winds variable but SE light becoming NW moderate; max temp 19 to 21C (66 to 77F).

Central S England, E W Midlands: Cloudy; showers developing; wind SE, light veering NW moderate; max temp 19C or 20C (66 to 68F).

Wales: Rain early, sunny intervals developing; scattered showers drying out later; wind NW backing W moderate; max temp 18C or 20C (65 to 68F).

N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Scotland: Cloudy, becoming drizzle; sunny intervals developing; scattered showers with variable light, becoming heavy at times; max temp 14C or 16C (57 to 61F).

Central N England, Borders: Cloudy; thundery rain drying out, sunny intervals; wind NW or W fresh becoming moderate; max temp 15C or 16C (59 to 61F).

Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Cardiff, Newcastle, Holyhead, NW Scotland: Cloudy, outbreaks of rain, heavy at times, becoming brighter and drier later; wind NW or W fresh becoming moderate; max temp 17C or 18C (63 or 64F).

Argyll, NW Scotland: Cloudy, rain, heavy at times, becoming drizzle; wind NW or W fresh becoming moderate; max temp 15C or 16C (59 to 61F).

Orkney, Shetland: Mainly cloudy, outbreaks of rain, heavy at times. Wind S fresh becoming variable light; max temp 14C or 15C (57 to 59F).

Northern Ireland: Sunny intervals developing; scattered showers drying out later; wind backing W fresh becoming moderate; light; max temp 17C or 18C (63 or 64F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Saturday: Unsettled and very windy with showers or longer outbreaks of rain. Some brighter intervals. Cooler.

SEA: A PASSAGE: A North Sea Wind SW light to moderate veering NW, smooth, becoming moderate. St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind NW moderate backing SW; strong to gale, sea slight becoming very rough.

Swimming safety

We can still hope for some fine late holiday weather and the Central Office of Information calls for care when swimming. Always look out for changing flags and notices, and only swim when and where it's safe to do so. Most important of all, the swimmer should know his capabilities and swim within them. Even though he might be a powerful swimmer he might not be as fit as he thinks he is. He should also be especially careful about tides, currents and cold water, and never swim soon after taking a heavy meal or drinking alcohol.

Beirut ban

The British Embassy in Beirut has advised against anyone from Britain visiting the city "until further notice". It had already warned the 4,000 British subjects living in Lebanon to stay indoors and make no attempt to travel.

Weather forecast

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High tides

	AM	PM
London Bridge	7.59	8.16
Aberdeen	12.47	10.4
Belfast	5.29	5.09
Bristol	12.42	12.42
Dover	11.45	4.5
Dunfermline	5.07	5.1
Edinburgh	11.45	11.45
Glasgow	6.58	4.2
Holyhead	6.53	6.18
London	4.58	4.58
London	12.19	8.07
London	11.45	4.5
London	5.07	5.1
London	11.45	11.45
London	6.58	4.2
London	6.53	6.18
London	4.58	4.58
London	12.19	8.07
London	11.45	4.5
London	5.07	5.1
London	11.45	11.45
London	6.58	4.2
London	6.53	6.18
London	4.58	4.58
London	12.19	8.07
London	11.45	4.5
London	5.07	5.1
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London	6.58	4.2
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London	12.19	8.07
London	11.45	4.5
London	5.07	5.1
London	11.45	11.45
London	6.58	4.2
London	6.53	6.18
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